



## Case opened: Democrats begin public airing of Mueller report

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump says it's "case closed." But Democrats are just getting started with Robert Mueller. House Democrats have scheduled a series of hearings this coming week on the special counsel's report as they intensify their focus on the Russia probe and pick up the pace on an investigative "path" — in the words of Speaker Nancy Pelosi — that some of them hope leads to impeachment of the president. In doing so, they are trying to draw the public's attention on the allegations that Trump sought to obstruct a federal investigation and they want to highlight his campaign's contacts with Russia in the 2016 election.



Continued on Page 3

In this June 5, 2019, photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks at the Capitol in Washington. President Donald Trump says it's "case closed," but Democrats are just getting started with special counsel Robert Mueller.

Associated Press



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In this May 9, 2019, file photo, Gov. Gavin Newsom gestures to a chart as he discusses his revised state budget during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

## California lawmakers agree to health benefits for immigrants

By ADAM BEAM  
Associated Press  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California will become the first state in the country to pay for some adults living in the country illegally to have full health benefits as the solidly liberal state continues to distance itself from President Donald

Trump's administration. Democrats in the state Legislature reached an agreement Sunday afternoon as part of a broader plan to spend \$213 billion of state and federal tax money over the next year. The agreement means low-income adults between the ages of 19 and 25 living in California illegally would be eligible for California's Medicaid program, the joint state and federal health insurance program for the poor and disabled. Not everyone in that age group would get the health benefits, but only those whose incomes are low enough to qualify for the program. State officials estimate that will be about 90,000 people at a cost of \$98 million per year.

The move is part of a larger effort to make sure everyone in California has health insurance. The proposal also makes California the first state in the country to help middle income families pay their monthly health insurance premiums. The agreement means a family of four earning as much as six times the federal poverty level — or more than \$150,000 a year — would be eligible to get about \$100 a month from the government to help pay their monthly health insurance premiums.

But to pay for part of it, the state will begin taxing people who don't have health insurance. It's a revival of the individual mandate penalty that had been law nationwide under former President Barack Obama's health care law until Republicans in Congress eliminated it as part of the 2017 overhaul to the tax code.

The budget agreement still must be approved by the full state Legislature. State law requires lawmakers to enact a budget by midnight on June 15. If they don't, lawmakers would lose their pay.

The health care proposals are a win for first-term Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who proposed both of them. Several lawmakers in the Democratic-dominated state legislature wanted to go further by offering health coverage to all adults living in California illegally.

Newsom did not get everything he wanted in the deal. Advocates say more than 1 million people in California don't have access to safe drinking water. Newsom had proposed a 95-cent tax on most residential water bills as well as fees on dairies, animal farms and fertilizer sellers, to help water districts pay for improvements and boost supplies. Lawmakers rejected the tax, arguing it was too burdensome in a year when the state is projected to have a \$21.5 billion surplus — the largest in at least 20 years.

Instead, lawmakers decided to use \$130 million in existing tax revenue to pay for the drinking water improvements. Most of that money — about \$100 million — would come from the state's sale of carbon credits as part of its "cap and trade" program. The move means the state's agricultural industry, whose pollution is often blamed for the drinking water problems, would have about \$100 million less than it normally gets from the program for various projects. □



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# Case opened: Democrats begin public airing of Mueller report

Continued from Front

And they will lay the groundwork for an appearance from Mueller himself, despite his stated desire to avoid the spotlight.

The hearings will focus on the two main topics of Mueller's report, obstruction of justice and Russian election interference.

The House Judiciary Committee plans to cover the first topic at a Monday hearing on "presidential obstruction and other crimes." The House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday intends to review the counterintelligence implications of the Russian meddling. Mueller said there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, but he said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction.

On Tuesday, the House has scheduled a vote to authorize contempt cases against Attorney General William Barr and former White House counsel Donald McGahn for failing to comply with subpoenas from the Democratic-controlled House.

Barr defied a subpoena to provide an unredacted version of Mueller's report, along with underlying evidence. McGahn, who is frequently referenced in the report, has defied subpoenas to provide documents and testify before the House Judiciary Committee.

Language in the resolution would make it easier for committee chairmen to take the Trump administra-

tion to court. Those chairmen could take legal action to enforce subpoenas in the future without a vote of the full House, so long as the chairmen have approval from a five-person, bipartisan group where Democrats have the majority.

With Trump pledging that "we're fighting all the subpoenas," Democratic leaders want to avoid repeated floor votes on contempt resolutions that detract from their legislative agenda.

The procession of hearings and votes in the week ahead is partly designed to mollify anxious Democrats who have pushed Pelosi, D-Calif., to begin impeachment proceedings immediately. Pelosi has so far rejected that option, preferring a slower, more methodical approach to investigating the president, including the court fights and hearings.

During a meeting with the House Judiciary Committee chairman, New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler, and other committee heads last week, Pelosi made the case that she would rather see Trump voted out of office and "in prison" than merely impeached, according to a report in Politico. A person familiar with the exchange confirmed the account to The Associated Press.

The latest approach appears to have temporarily satisfied the restless House Democrats.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, who pleaded with Pelosi last month to start an inquiry, said the votes and

hearings are going to be enough, for now, as they wait to see what happens in court.

"I am very satisfied that things are moving in the right direction," Raskin said. "And I think the American people are getting increasingly educated and engaged about the lawlessness of the president."

Rep. David Cicilline, a Judiciary Committee member who favors an impeachment inquiry, took pains to avoid separating himself from top Democrats such as Pelosi. □



President Donald Trump responds to a question from the media as he walks into the White House, Friday June 7, 2019, on his return to Washington.

Associated Press

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## Trump still hangs tariff threat over Mexico despite deal



A Mexican Army soldier walks on the highway, near an immigration checkpoint in Tapachula, Chiapas state, Mexico, Saturday June 8, 2019.

Associated Press

By JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press  
**STERLING, Va. (AP)** — President Donald Trump on Sunday dangled the prospect of renewing his tariff threat against Mexico if the U.S. ally doesn't cooperate on border issues, while some of his Democratic challengers for the White House said the last-minute deal to avert trade penalties was overblown.

In a series of tweets, Trump defended the agreement heading off the 5% tax on all Mexican goods that he had threatened to impose

Monday, but he warned Mexico that, "if for some unknown reason" cooperation fails, "we can always go back to our previous, very profitable, position of Tariffs." The tweets came amid questions about just how much of the deal — announced with great fanfare Friday — was really new. It included a commitment from Mexico, for instance, to deploy its new National Guard to its southern border with Guatemala. Mexico, however, had already intended to do that before Trump's latest threat and had made that clear to U.S. officials. Mexican officials have described their commitment as an accelerated deployment.

The U.S. also hailed Mexico's agreement to embrace the expansion of a program implemented earlier this year under which some asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico as they wait out their cases. But U.S. officials had already been working to expand the program, which has led to the return of about 10,000 people to Mexico, without Mexico's public embrace. "The president has completely overblown what he reports to have achieved. These are agreements that Mexico had already made, in some cases months ago," said Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, speaking on ABC's "This Week."

"They might have accelerated the time table, but by and large the president achieved nothing except to jeopardize the most im-

portant trading relationship that the United States of America has."

Another 2020 candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, chastised Trump for using tariffs as a threat and operating a "trade policy based on tweets."

"I think what the world is tired of and what I am tired of is a president who consistently goes to war, verbal war with our allies, whether it is Mexico, whether it is Canada," he said.

"This is the first time we've heard anything like this kind of number of law enforcement being deployed in Mexico to address migration, not just at the southern border but also on the transportation routes to the northern border and in coordinated patrols in key areas along our southwest border," he said, adding that "people can disagree with the tactics" but "Mexico came to the table with real proposals" that will be effective, if implemented.

Trump echoed the same in his tweets, insisting the deal was being misrepresented. "We have been trying to get some of these Border Actions for a long time, as have other administrations, but were not able to get them, or get them in full, until our signed agreement with Mexico," he wrote. "Mexico was not being cooperative on the Border in things we had, or didn't have, and now I have full confidence, especially after speaking to their President yesterday, that they will be very cooperative and want to get the job properly done." □

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## California utility proactively cuts power because of weather

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**

— Pacific Gas & Electric implemented a controversial practice of cutting power to selected portions of Northern California on Saturday to guard against wildfires as the weather turned very windy, dry and hot.

Electricity was turned off around 6 a.m. to 1,600 customers in parts Napa, Solano and Yolo counties. Just as that shutdown was called off, the utility warned 27,000 customers in Butte, Yuba, Nevada, El Dorado and Placer counties that their power would be cut from 9 p.m. through Sunday morning.

The end of the earlier shutdown was announced around 4 p.m., and the utility said power would be restored in those areas as soon as crews finished checking lines for any weather-related damage. Conditions ripe for fire — winds, low humidity, dry vegetation and heat — were expected to last into Sunday. The National Weather Service office reported a 71 mph (114 kph) gust on one peak in the region.

A fire that erupted late in the day in Yolo County was estimated at 100 acres; firefighters halted the spread of another after 25 acres burned northeast of Calistoga in Napa County. The causes were not immediately known.

PG&E is under pressure to prevent fire starts after downed power lines and other company equipment have been blamed for conflagrations that began during so-called fire weather.

But there has been opposition from customers who rely on electrically powered life-support equipment as well as businesses that have had to shut down for lack of power.

"We know how much our customers rely on electric service, and our decision tonight to turn off power is to protect our communities experiencing extreme fire danger," Michael Lewis, PG&E's senior vice president of electric operations,

said in a statement Friday. California experienced a very wet winter and spring, and even vast areas that were scorched earth after last year's wildfires now have new head-high brush that is rapidly browning as summer approaches.

Several fires have broken out. On Saturday afternoon, Yolo County issued mandatory evacuation orders for parts of Capay Valley, north of Guinda, a town of about 250 people, because of a fire nearby that covers about 2 square miles, KRON reported.

The TV station says the fire is burning near County Road 41 and Highway 16.

A grass fire Friday afternoon near the Solano County community of Fairfield forced people out of about 50 homes. But firefighters held it to 24 acres (10 hectares) without any structures lost and evacuations were lifted.

A wildfire near Interstate 5 in Stanislaus County grew to nearly 1 square mile (2.59 sq. kilometer). But it was 75 percent contained Saturday, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The state's electricity providers have been given authority to shut off power when fire risk is extremely high. The California Public Utilities Commission has said they must do a better job of educating and notifying the public, as well as increase fire prevention efforts such as clearing brush and installing fire-resistant poles.

The National Weather Service's red flag warning was issued for parts of the Central Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for Saturday through Sunday at elevations below 1,000 feet (305 meters), where there has been less rain recently and the vegetation is driest.

A heat advisory issued for the region around the San Francisco Bay warned of record or near-record heat on Sunday, with widespread highs from 95 to 105 degrees (35 to 40.5 Celsius). □



In this Nov. 26, 2018, file photo, a Pacific Gas & Electric lineman works to repair a power line in fire-ravaged Paradise, Calif. Associated Press

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Police keep watch at Dupont Circle at the conclusion of the Capitol Pride Parade in Washington, Saturday, June 8, 2019.  
Associated Press

## Police detail man's threat behind panic at DC LGBTQ parade

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**  
Associated Press  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A man threatened another person with a BB gun during an LGBTQ pride parade in the nation's capital and set off a panic that sent hundreds of people, who mistakenly believed gunshots were fired, running in fear, police said Sunday. Aftabjit Singh, 38, was arrested on weapons possession and disorderly conduct charges after Saturday evening's incident in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C., where thousands of people packed the streets to celebrate in the city's annual pride parade. Although no gunshots were fired, hundreds of people ran from the area, knocking down metal police barricades and running into stores, fearing that a gunman had opened fire

on the crowd of revelers. Seven people were taken to local hospitals for injuries they suffered while fleeing the area, authorities said. Inside a small park in Dupont Circle, Singh pulled the BB gun on another person who was "hitting on his significant other," according to a police report. People began running from the area and police officers who were keeping watch over the festivities heard revelers shouting that there was a man with a gun. As the officers got closer, someone in the crowd pointed to Singh and said he had a gun in his bag. An officer stopped Singh and noticed what appeared to be a silver handgun sticking out of his brown bag that was underneath a tree, the report said. The weapon turned out to actually be a BB gun, police said. □

## Brush fire sets off evacuation at California amusement park

**SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)**

— A fast-moving brush fire erupted near a huge amusement and water park in Southern California on Sunday, sending hundreds of visitors to the exit to escape clouds of smoke and ash before fire officials asked them to stay put while they worked to contain the blaze.

Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor announced the evacuation shortly after noon, citing concern for the safety of park visitors and employees. About a half-hour later, the park said on its Twitter account that fire officials asked guests to shelter in place due to nearby road closures.

Park visitors were asked to move to the back of the 260-acre property, away from firefighting activity near the entrance, said Rachel Gallat, who was visiting a friend who works at the park.

"I was getting iced coffee and when I walked outside, ash was raining down on me," Gallat said. "There was a big cloud of smoke. I saw people around me panicking; they didn't know where they were supposed to go."

A Los Angeles County Fire Department dispatcher told the Los Angeles Times the park voluntarily evacuated visitors.

"We did not tell them to do this," Melanie Flores said.



In this photo provided by Arthur Wilkie, people evacuate Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor, Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Santa Clarita, Calif., north of Los Angeles, as smoke from a fast-moving brush fire surrounded the area.

Associated Press

Los Angeles County fire officials said nine people were taken to the hospital due to smoke exposure. The blaze is 20% contained.

Shalane Gonzales, 34, said she saw people running out of the park in bathing suits.

"It was pretty scary. We saw trucks packing people," Gonzales said. "They were just telling people to load up on their truck beds."

She said when she tried to drive to the entrance to pick up her partner and their two young sons, police told her to return to the parking lot.

"The fire was feet away from where we were," she said.

The park later announced it was closed for the day after police reopened the roads, allowing everyone to leave in their cars. □

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## Puerto Rican Day Parade honors arts, culture trailblazers

By **JULIE WALKER** and **DEEPTI HAJELA**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With Puerto Rican pride on full display along New York City's Fifth Avenue, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Sunday he's returning to the island to help rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Maria.

Speaking at the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Cuomo said he's also appointing a commission to oversee the construction of a memorial, located in Manhattan's Battery Park City, to victims of the 2017 storm.

Cuomo, a Democrat, said more than 300 students from state-run colleges will travel to Puerto Rico over the summer to help the recovery.

Public health experts have estimated that nearly 3,000 people died in 2017 because of the effects of Hurricane Maria.

"In New York, we have not forgotten," Cuomo said. "We said on day one that we will stand with Puerto



**Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., center, takes part in the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Sunday, June 9, 2019, in New York.**

**Associated Press**

Rico every step of the way." Cuomo has already traveled to Puerto Rico five times since Hurricane Maria hit.

Last year, parade organizers mounted a tribute to those affected by the September 2017 natural disas-

ter, including a group of marchers who had been displaced from their homes. This year, for its 62nd iteration, the parade is looking to promote the economic development needed for the island to fully get back on its feet. As part of that,

it's highlighting Discover Puerto Rico, an organization encouraging business and leisure travel to Puerto Rico.

Grand marshal Ricky Martin, the singer known for his stint in Menudo and his hit "Livin' La Vida Loca," was

celebrated alongside his foundation, which is dedicated to fighting human trafficking.

As New York City marks Pride Month, the parade is paying posthumous tribute to Sylvia Rivera, an LGBTQ rights activist who took part in the Stonewall rebellion 50 years ago this month.

Others being honored in the parade themed "One People, Many Voices" include singers La India and José Feliciano, golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez and Hall of Fame-bound baseball slugger Edgar Martinez.

Doris Martinez, 61, of Manhattan, said she's been going to the parade since she was 15.

"My mommy made it a point to show me my heritage and culture at an early age, and for me, it's a pride and joy especially to show the world who we are," she said.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio skipped the parade, opting to campaign in Iowa as he seeks the Democratic party's nomination in the 2020 presidential race. □

## Crane collapses during storm in Dallas, killing 1 woman

By **JAKE BLEIBERG** and **JUAN LOZANO**

**Associated Press**

**DALLAS (AP)** — A construction crane buffeted by high winds during a storm collapsed on a Dallas apartment building Sunday, killing one woman in the building and injuring at least six more people, two of them critically, a fire official said.

Crews searching the Elan City Lights building found the body of a woman inside after the crane toppled and ripped a large gash into the side of the five-story structure, Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans said during a press briefing.

Evans said it is too early to say whether there may be more people hurt, killed or missing.

"The building itself has suffered multiple collapses in different areas of the building to include residential spaces and the parking



**Officials respond to the scene after a crane collapsed into Elan City Lights apartments amid severe thunderstorms, Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Dallas.**

**Associated Press**

garage," Evans said.

Of those injured, two were listed in critical condition, three had suffered serious injuries and one suffered minor injuries and was later discharged from a hospital, Evans said.

Crews were called to the site of the collapse just before 2 p.m., after the National Weather Service issued a severe thunder-

storm watch for the Dallas/Fort Worth area and warned of winds up to 70 mph (113 kph). Evans said the reason the crane fell is unknown but there is a "strong possibility" that the winds "played some role in the collapse."

Across Dallas the storm felled mature trees and knocked out power Sunday, leaving many areas

without working traffic lights. Isaiah Allen told the Dallas Morning News he was in his apartment when he heard what he thought was a deafening thunderclap. "I saw that the crane had actually fell straight through the building and had destroyed a good eight to 10 apartments and so there's like floors and stuff falling through," he said. Allen told the paper he saw a bloodied woman trapped in her apartment on the second floor.

Yesenia Bosquez's family had moved into their top-floor apartment just two weeks ago. She returned from a shopping trip to find her apartment, where she'd left her husband, Jay, to recover from a shoulder injury, crushed by the twisted metal.

It took about 30 minutes for authorities to tell her that her husband had been rescued alive and had been holding their dog while

medics worked on his injuries. "It felt like a year," Bosquez said.

Video shows that downed crane ripped a large hole in the east side of the building and landed on an adjacent parking garage. Evans said the top priority for search and rescue personnel was the eastern side of the building where all five floors collapsed and where the deceased woman was found.

Evans said "every single level of the parking garage in part has collapsed" and that multiple vehicles were damaged. He said he was not sure if anybody was in the garage at the time of the collapse.

He said rescue personnel were using dogs to try to find people who might be trapped inside the rubble. Across Dallas the storms felled mature trees and knocked out power Sunday leaving many areas without working traffic lights. □



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## G-20 finance officials pledge to protect global growth

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH**  
**Associated Press**

**FUKUOKA, Japan (AP)** — Finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of 20 major economies wrapped up a meeting in Japan on Sunday with a pledge to use all the policies they can to protect global growth from disruptions due to trade and other tensions.

The G-20 finance leaders said in a joint communique that risks from trade and geopolitical tensions were "intensifying." They did not refer directly to the tariffs war between the United States and China, though leaders participating in the meetings indicated it was the No. 1 concern.

"We will continue to address these risks, and stand ready to take further action," the statement said. "We reaffirm our commitment to use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks."

Global growth appears to be stabilizing and is expected to pick up later this year and next year, the statement said.



**Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso, center right in front, and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, center left in front, pose with other ministers and central bank governors during a family photo session of the G20 meeting Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Fukuoka, western Japan.**

But there was an evident rift between most participants in the meeting and the U.S., which has shifted away from support for tackling issues in multilateral forums such as the World Trade Organization in favor of a country-by-country "America First" approach. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the current global slowdown was linked to political issues, "especially trade tensions."

"So it's high time that we put an end to those tensions and we should avoid trade wars which would have real deep negative impact and long-term impact on global growth," he said.

He urged China and the U.S. to resolve their disputes through the WTO, saying it "is only within the multilateral framework that we can find long-term solutions for present trade tensions."

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, likewise was blunt in warning of the potential toll from the tit-for-tat tariff hikes and other retaliatory moves between Washington and Beijing with talks on resolving their dispute in a stalemate, saying that the "road ahead remains precarious."

"The principal threat stems from continuing trade tensions," said Lagarde, adding that the IMF estimates the level of global GDP by 0.5 percent in 2020, or about \$455 billion.

"To mitigate these risks, I

emphasized that the first priority should be to resolve the current trade tensions — including eliminating existing tariffs and avoiding new ones — while we need to continue to work toward the modernization of the international trade system," Lagarde said.

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso appeared to have wearied of the issue by the end of the meetings. "The China-U.S. issue is all you ask about. We have plenty of other issues that we need to consider," he said.

While they urged the U.S. to stick to the international rules that it spent decades promoting before President Donald Trump took office, the officials both in the southern Japanese city of Fukuoka and at parallel talks on trade and the digital economy in Tsukuba, near Tokyo, said there is a consensus on the need to revamp the WTO to bring it more in line with the digital economy realities of the 21st century.

Trump has said he prefers deal-making on a coun-

try-to-country basis. While there is no sign Beijing and Washington are ready to resume trade talks that stalled last month after 11 rounds of negotiations, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he had a constructive meeting Sunday with China's central bank Gov. Yi Gang on the sidelines of a financial leaders' meeting in Fukuoka.

In a Twitter post that showed the two clasping hands, Mnuchin said he and Yi "had a candid discussion on trade issues." He gave no details.

Mnuchin told reporters that he expected that any major progress in resolving the impasse would likely come at a meeting of Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping during the G-20 summit in late June in Osaka, Japan.

Trump has yet to decide, Mnuchin said, on whether to impose more 25% tariffs on \$300 billion worth of Chinese exports. That would be on top of tariffs of up to 25% on \$250 billion in Chinese goods. Together they would encompass almost everything China exports to the U.S.

At the meeting of trade and economy ministers in Tsukuba, a government research hub, the officials endorsed a similar set of recommendations, while also issuing a mild call to "handle trade tensions and to foster mutually beneficial trade relations."

"We strive to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment, to keep our markets open," they said. "We recognize our business community's call for the G20 to continue supporting the multilateral trading system." □

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## Iran gears up for high-stakes diplomacy amid tension with US

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

As its nuclear deal with world powers unravels amid heightened tensions with the U.S., Iran will see a week of high-stakes diplomacy capped by the first visit of a Japanese prime minister to Tehran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Shinzo Abe will arrive on Wednesday in Iran after earlier meeting with President Donald Trump, whose maximalist approach toward the Islamic Republic has seen America re-impose sanctions once lifted by the 2015 accord and create far-reaching newer ones. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also will visit Tehran as well this week. What Abe will be able to accomplish remains unclear, as Iran already has warned Europe it will begin enrichment of uranium closer to weapons-grade levels by July 7 if it doesn't come up with new terms to the deal. It also comes as Japan tries to negotiate its own trade deals with Trump, who has been quick to impose tariffs on other nations.

But Abe, whose nation relies heavily on Mideast crude oil to power its economy, already has acknowledged the challenge.

"Between Japan and the United States, there should be close collaboration so that this tension surrounding Iran should be mitigated and alleviated, and it shouldn't culminate in armed conflict," Abe said in a May news conference with Trump in Tokyo.

The current crisis, which has seen the U.S. hurry an aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers in the region, takes root in Trump's decision last year to with-



A pilot speaks to a crew member by an F/A-18 fighter jet on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea on Monday, June 3, 2019.

Associated Press

draw the U.S. from the nuclear deal. That accord saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions

Trump, in withdrawing from the deal, pointed to the accord not limiting Iran's ballistic missile program, nor addressing what American officials describe as Tehran's malign influence across the wider Mideast. Those who struck the deal at the time described it as a building block toward further negotiations with Iran, whose Islamic government has had a tense relationship with America since the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and subsequent hostage crisis.

Some members of Trump's administration, particularly National Security Adviser John Bolton, previously supported the overthrow of Iran's government. Trump, however, has stressed that he wants to talk with Iran's clerical rulers.

"I'm not looking to hurt Iran at all. I'm looking to have Iran say, 'No nuclear weapons,'" Trump said at the same Tokyo news conference. "We have enough problems in this world right now with nuclear weapons. No nuclear weapons

for Iran. And I think we'll make a deal."

The reaction has been mixed in Iran. Its rial currency is currently trading at 128,000 to \$1. It had been 32,000 to the dollar at the time of the 2015 deal.

Japan had once purchased Iranian oil, but it has now stopped over American sanctions. However, Mideast oil remains crucial to Japan and recent threats from Iran to close off the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes, has raised concerns.

Abe will arrive Wednesday to Tehran and will stay through Friday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported on Sunday. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono is expected to travel to Tehran before Abe's arrival to meet his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Zarif, speaking at a high school in Tehran on Sunday, welcomed Abe's visit, but stressed Trump had engaged in an "economic war" against Iran through the imposition of sanctions. "We have said it clearly that economic war is not different from a (military) war at all. Mr. Trump has

announced that he is pursuing an economic war," Zarif said. An "economic war targets ordinary people and is in fact terrorism. This policy must stop."

Meanwhile, Iran on Sunday announced what it described as a new surface-to-air missile battery it called the Khordad 15. The system uses locally made missiles that resemble the HAWK missiles that the U.S. once sold to the shah and later delivered to the Islamic Republic in the 1980s Iran-Contra scandal.

The revealing of the missiles comes as the USS Abraham Lincoln, the aircraft carrier ordered to the region, remains in the Arabian Sea. It has yet to transit the Strait of Hormuz to reach the Persian Gulf, likely to both pro-

tect a vessel already within range of airstrikes on Iran and not to provoke a response from Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which routinely harasses American naval ships.

Ahead of Abe, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas will visit Tehran on Monday. Germany is one of the signatories to the nuclear deal and has sought to keep Iran in the accord.

"We want to avoid any misunderstandings that would lead to automatic reactions that could lead to violence," Maas said. "All those involved bear responsibility to absolutely avoid a spiral of escalation and this is a view I will also express very clearly tomorrow, on the opposite shores of the Gulf." □

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## Tensions force evacuation of Syrian refugee camp in Lebanon

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

DEIR AL-AHMAR, Lebanon

(AP) — Dozens of Syrian refugees dismantled their tents, filled trucks with belongings and left a camp they lived in for years in eastern Lebanon on Sunday after local authorities ordered them to evacuate in the aftermath of a brawl with local firefighters.

Lebanese officials say the decision to evacuate is to prevent revenge attacks and further tension after residents of the town threatened to storm the camp.

A curfew on the Syrian refugees living in Deir al-Ahmar, estimated at 6,000, was put in place for two days and police patrolled the area.

"This is to ensure their safety and to stop the bloodshed," said Jean Fakhry, a Lebanese municipality official in Deir al-Ahmar told

A Syrian family loads their belongings on a pickup, as they evacuate an informal refugee camp after a fight broke out last week between camp residents and Lebanese firefighters who arrived to put out a fire, in Deir Al-Ahmar, east Lebanon, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

The Associated Press.

The evacuation of more than 90 tents reflects the growing tension in Lebanon

over hosting more than 1 million Syrian refugees since 2011.

A country of nearly 5 mil-

lion, Lebanon's infrastructure and economy has been overwhelmed by the arrival of those fleeing the

Associated Press

war next door.

Mostly impoverished and dispossessed, many settled in the country's east, living in squalid camps and struggling to work and survive in the area known for its harsh winters and sizzling summers.

As Lebanon deals with an economic crunch, many Lebanese politicians and groups turned to Syrians, calling for them to go home saying the violence there is winding down.

In the scorching sun of the early afternoon, Syrian men, women and children pulled down cloth and carpets covering the wooden structures that served as their temporary homes. They piled mattresses, pots and pans into trucks headed to a new location miles away. Local officials say 600 lived in the camps but U.N. estimates said it was closer to 400 people. □

## Modi visits Maldives, signaling India's return as key ally

Associated Press

MALE, Maldives (AP) — Indi-

an Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his first overseas

In this photo released by the India Government Press Information Bureau, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih sit during their meeting in Maldives, Saturday, June 8, 2019.

Associated Press

trip since being elected to a second term by traveling to the Maldives, where the new president pledged closer ties with New Delhi in a departure from his predecessor's pro-China policy. Modi met with Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on Saturday evening and later addressed the Maldives' Parliament. It was the first visit by an Indian prime minister to the South Asian archipelago nation in eight years. According to a joint statement, Solih reaffirmed his government's "India-first policy" and pledged full

support toward deepening "the multifaceted, mutually beneficial partnership between India and the Maldives."

Solih's stand is a marked shift from his predecessor Yameen Abdul Gayoom, who developed close ties with Beijing in an area India considers as its backyard. Several agreements were signed between the two countries covering health, cargo and passenger transportation by sea, customs services and other sectors. India had been concerned with Yameen's leaning toward China, which is seek-

ing more influence in the Indian Ocean region. Yameen had pledged support for China's "Belt and Road" initiative and China invested in many infrastructure projects in the Maldives. Addressing Parliament, Modi underscored the importance of the Indo-Pacific region, saying "it has been our lifeline, and also the highway for trade and prosperity." He called terrorism was the biggest threat facing the world and there could be no distinction between the so-called "good" and "bad" terrorists. □



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## Massive extradition bill protest fills Hong Kong streets

By **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**  
Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Hundreds of thousands of protesters marched through Hong Kong on Sunday to voice their opposition to legislation that would allow people to be extradited to mainland China where they could face politically charged trials.

The massive demonstration took place three days before the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's government plans to bring the highly contentious bill to the full legislature in a bid to win approval by the end of the month.

Police estimated the crowd at 240,000, but organizers said more than 1 million took part.

The protest was one of the largest in recent Hong Kong history, underscoring fears over China's broadening footprint in the former British colony. It appeared to be even bigger than a massive pro-democracy demonstration in 2003 against a proposed national security law, according to Associated Press journalists who covered both events.

Late Sunday night, a group of demonstrators broke through barriers at government headquarters, where the march had ended. The crowd briefly pushed its way into the lobby, but police in riot gear used batons and pepper spray to push the protesters outside. Most had dispersed by 1 a.m., but police continued pushing protesters away for kilometers over a period of two to three hours.

There was still a strong police presence on streets throughout downtown Hong Kong as of 3 a.m.



Protesters march along a downtown street against the proposed amendments to an extradition law in Hong Kong Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Monday.

A small group of protesters sat with hands tied on the side of Gloucester Road, surrounded by police.

People of all ages took part in the march, some pushing strollers and others carrying canes, chanting slogans in the native Cantonese dialect in favor of greater transparency in government.

Kiwi Wong, 27, was among the throng, a member of the younger generation who've grown up enjoying relative prosperity but also growing insecurity about what many see as an erosion of the rights Hong Kong residents have enjoyed.

"If I didn't come out now, I don't know when I would have the chance to express my opinion again," Wong said. "Because now we've got to this stage, if you don't come out to try to do what you can, then it will end up too late, you

won't be able to say or do anything about it."

Alex Ng, a 67-year-old retiree, said he joined the protest because "I think that there was never any public consultation about this law, and there are a lot of uncertainties."

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, has pushed forward with the legislation despite widespread criticism from human rights and business groups. The amendments have been criticized as eroding Hong Kong's judicial independence by making it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

"What can we do to get Carrie Lam to listen to us, how many people have to come out to make her reconsider listening to the public?" said Miu Wong, a 24-year-old office worker

who was among the protesters.

Tommy Lam, a 29-year-old who is working on his master's degree, said: "All these people coming out and marching sends a definite message. If the government doesn't listen, there will be tension."

The Hong Kong government said in a statement late Sunday that it respected the right of its opponents to protest.

"We acknowledge and respect that people have different views on a wide range of issues," the statement said.

"The procession today is an example of Hong Kong people exercising their freedom of expression within their rights as enshrined in the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance."

Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and po-

litical systems for 50 years following its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997, the so-called "one country, two systems" framework. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

Hong Kong currently limits extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing extradition agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before 1997.

China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights. In recent years, mainland authorities have gone after opponents by accusing them of dubious crimes such as tax evasion, crystalizing worries among critics and others.

Lam's government argued that the revisions were needed to close legal loopholes, while opponents say that is merely an excuse to pursue China's agenda of reducing Hong Kong's legal independence.

Hong Kong's Legislative Council will table the amendments on the bill on Wednesday.

"The people of Hong Kong want to protect our freedom, our freedom of speech, our rule of law, our judicial system, and also our economic foundation, which is welcome to international investors," activist Lee Cheuk-yan, a former Hong Kong legislator, said Sunday. "If international investors lose confidence in Hong Kong because of this evil bill, then Hong Kong, economically, would also be destroyed." □



## Thousands pour into Colombia as Venezuela reopens border

By **MANUEL RUEDA**  
**LUZ DARY DEPABLOS**  
**Associated Press**  
**CÚCUTA, Colombia (AP)**

— Thousands of people crossed into Colombia on Saturday to buy food and medicine after Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro reopened a border between the countries that had been shut down for the past four months. Long lines of Venezuelans stood at two international bridges near the city of Cúcuta waiting to have their documents checked by Colombian officials, with some carrying children on their shoulders. Venezuelan border guards dressed in green uniforms helped control the crowd.

The South American nation's socialist government ordered the borders with Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Brazil and Colombia closed in February as the opposition tried to deliver food and medical supplies into the country.

Most of the aid was provided by the United States, a key ally of opposition leader Juan Guaidó who declared himself to be Venezuela's rightful president in January. But Maduro dismissed the aid as an infringement on Venezuela's



**Venezuelans showing their IDs line up to cross the Simon Bolivar international bridge into Cucuta, Colombia, Saturday, June 8, 2019.**

sovereignty and prohibited it from entering.

In May, the government reopened borders with Aruba and Brazil, but the Simon Bolivar International Bridge and the Francisco de Paula Santander International Bridge with Colombia have remained closed up until now.

With the reopening, a flood of people seized on the opportunity to enter into the neighboring country and secure items that are all but unattainable in Venezuela.

The once-wealthy oil nation is now facing severe shortages of basic goods and hyperinflation that is expected to surpass 10 million percent this year, according to a recent IMF estimate. The chaos has been further aggravated by U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan oil exports and has forced an estimated 5,000 people to leave the country each day, according to the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees.

The U.N. refugee agency

said Friday that 4 million Venezuelans, or almost 15% of the population, have left the country.

On Saturday, the UNHCR's special envoy Angelina Jolie was visiting another part of the Colombia-Venezuela border to learn more about the conditions faced by migrants and refugees and raise awareness about their needs. The Hollywood actress met with aid workers and Venezuelans and toured a tent village built by UNHCR for vulnerable

migrants. Following her visit, Jolie gave a brief statement in which she praised Colombia for receiving more than 1.3 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees, and urged the leaders of developed countries to do more to help displaced people around the world.

"Looking across the word it seems that those who have the least, are those that often give the most" Jolie said. "Instead of focusing on how to address the gap in diplomacy and security and peace that is causing growing numbers of people to move, we hear increasing talk of what individual governments are not prepared to do."

Jolie said that UNHCR is struggling to fund services for Venezuelan migrants and refugees. In December, the agency launched a \$738 million plan to assist displaced Venezuelans across the hemisphere, but it has only been able to raise a fifth of that money so far.

Earlier on Saturday, Jolie met with Colombia President Ivan Duque, who has pledged to keep his country's border with Venezuela open despite the large influx of migrants. □

## Mexico: Country has 'dignity intact' after US tariff deal

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN**  
**Associated Press**  
**TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)** —

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he was reluctantly prepared to slap retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods if negotiators in Washington had failed to strike a deal, addressing a boisterous celebratory rally Saturday in the border city of Tijuana. The president's comments came shortly after his foreign minister and chief negotiator, Marcelo Ebrard, told the rally the country had emerged from the high-stakes talks that avoided U.S. tariffs on Mexico's exports with its "dignity intact."

López Obrador said that as an admirer of Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela he opposes



**Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador receives the applause of the crowd during a rally in Tijuana, Mexico, Saturday, June 8, 2019.**

retaliation but had been prepared to impose tariffs on U.S. goods. "As chief representative of the Mexican State I cannot permit that anyone attacks our economy or accept an unjust asymmetry unworthy of our government."

The rally in Tijuana, a short

walk from the border, was originally scheduled as an act of solidarity in the face of President Donald Trump's threat to impose a 5% tariff on Mexico's exports if it did not stem the flow of Central American migrants crossing its territory toward the U.S. But after Mexican and U.S.

officials reached an accord late Friday that calls on Mexico to crackdown on migrants in exchange for Trump backing off his threat, officials here converted the rally into a celebration. Speaking about the migrants, Ebrard said, "while they are in Mexico, we are going to be in solidarity with them."

A series of speakers at the government-organized gathering spoke of the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship and applauded Mexico's negotiating team. The rally had the feeling of a campaign event with lots of paraphernalia from López Obrador's ruling Morena party.

Lopez Obrador spoke of the long and intertwined histories of the two countries, noting that they "are

protagonists in the largest demographic exchange in the world."

Tijuana residents at the rally said they supported the terms of the agreement. But residents just a block away expressed concern the deal could mean more asylum seekers having to wait in Tijuana and other Mexican border cities for the resolution of their cases in the U.S. That process can take months or even years. Critics of the deal in Mexico say that other than a vague reiteration of a joint commitment to promote development, security and growth in Central America, the agreement focuses almost exclusively on enforcement and says little about the root causes driving the surge in migrants seen in recent months. □



## LOCAL



## E-Seminar Aruba: Connecting Island and the International Marketing Community

ORANJESTAD — E-Aruba Business Seminar took place last Saturday, at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad, and this edition was sold out again, just as the three previous years. Over 700 attendees listened to international top speakers from Google, McDonalds, YouTube and Guinness Record/TV talk about how to catch the customer. The event production is led by Mark Benson from Infinity Media Aruba and Diederik Kemmerling from The Lab Digital Marketing Agency.

After the opening by sponsor Digicel Business a presentation on social media update and tips and tricks that drive business results was done by Ivy Lacle and Kemmerling from The Lab. Did you know Aruba has 46,000 LinkedIn accounts? A great opportunity for local business to connect with the customer, moreover as Facebook is still the main focus on the island at this moment. Also voice over-internet (VoIP) is gaining terrain when it comes to search on the internet according to data of The Lab.

### Start-Up Winners

Some interesting facts came from Maciej Szczepaniak, he leads Global Strategy & Commercialization for Offline Measurement at Google. He states that start-up companies are on the path of outperforming the giants within the industry, reason being is the traditional approach of ownership focus is being replaced by the experience towards the result. Good examples of this are Uber and Spotify. Customers, nowadays care more about the outcomes, not the ownership. Funny fact is that the new generation is getting more obsessed with mundane things like the type of toothbrush or olive oil used rather than the car they drive. His presentation was troubled a bit by streaming difficulties, provoking his joke that fiber connection is very much welcomed on Aruba. His advice to businesses is to keep operating as a start-up, keep on testing and take risks and get to know your customer by collecting data. Currently people check out purchases on internet, but 85 % still buy in physical stores.

At the end of each presentation a panel discussion led by Benson took place with local professionals and the speaker with the opportunity for the audience to ask questions. It was a full house event where many students clearly took the chance to upgrade their knowledge of marketing and get insights of the industry. There were special reduced ticket prices for them, a good thing to stimulate education. As the name obviously suggests, the well-organized event is entirely focused on online marketing. The dynamics between and the stats about traditional marketing lacked which might be an interesting topic for next year's event, if it was only for the comparison. More news about the other three speakers in this week's editions of Aruba Today. Stay tuned! □





## Restaurant Study Impact: Pressure points increase challenges within the business

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Gastronomic Association (AGA) was launched in 1993 and one of its founding members, Mr. Eduardo Ellis, will soon be honored during the launch of their new web-site. The association has close to 60 members and is still growing. Besides the objectives of marketing the restaurants, their mission is to be the voice of the Food and Beverage industry in Aruba. Recently the University of Aruba (UOA) conducted an Economic Impact Study for the association.

Why an Economic Impact Study? Before the outcome the economic impact of the F&B scene in Aruba was just a guessing game. AGA estimated 500 establishments, 500 million florins in sales, and 5000 employees. With 'One Happy Island' and us catering those seeking One Happy Island, it is the F&B operators that do not always experience this Happy Island phenomena. There are several myths about their industry and they would like to address just one: This is a fun filled



easy business one will get rich soon. To which we answer: Wrong! We see many F&B outlets open and close in Aruba and the truth of the matter is that one needs savings for back up for at least the first two years. Profit margins are small, and cost of business is high. In a nutshell:

An F&B business will typically encounter as a general rule of thumb:

F&B Cost	35%
Cost of labor	35%
Rent and Utilities/ Gas	12%
Advertising	4%
Administrative and Other	6%

This leaves still space for accounting and legal fees and reaching over the 90% cost line is not too hard.

As one can see, margins are consequently small and most operators do well 6 months a year and have to make ends meet for the other 6 months, says AGA. While most folks focus on the food and beverage products, utilities, fiscal and other obligations and rent do affect our business and many times reason a business closes at the end of the day. We consequently fear that not all operations in this study pay their fair share. Aruba is considered expensive and we are! In a meeting with the Minister of Finances it was mentioned that Aruba is only the number 12th most expensive island among 19 Caribbean neighbors. However other sources like the Travel Index bring us to number 6 and close to 4 according to AGA.

### Outcome of Study

The industry's costs this past year increased and partially was passed on to the consumer due to: Government taxes (BBO) increased from 3.5% to 6% and as of July 1st, 2019 will have to be included in the price which again will be at a cost in re-printing menus. For some restaurants re-printing on average that is about Afl. 4000 and the sad part: when the BBO is replaced for whatever tax, menus have to be re-printed again. Perception of having increased the prices without a doubt will affect the average checks. AGA still does not understand the reasoning or the lack of transparency in including the tax in the price as we are even not allowed to make mention

that the tax is included in the invoice, subject to a fine. It is so inconsiderate of the industry.... and is commerce not the backbone of our economy, AGA wonders? Consequently, AGA does not ask for another extension they were granted until July 1st, they simply ask for the idea of the inclusion be abandoned until the next fiscal phase is announced and hopefully the private sector will be part or involved in this discussion. The current idea of the inclusion is impractical, in-transparent and seems to have been designed by those not having a business. Several letters implicating the negative consequences have been sent to the Government and a response was labeled valid by the PM....and a commitment followed by the PM in Parliament towards the private sector that a postponement would be coupled to fiscal phase 2 in July or another period. "We kindly urge the Minister of Finances to comply with the PM commitment as many small businesses will either not comply or will not be able to comply with this unnecessary administrative burden that is not generating more tax income but comes as a cost to the private sector in money and time."

Plastic bags were banned (good idea) but the cost for other bags was eight times the cost of the plastic bags and replacing foam boxes and straws (good idea) will again be passed on to the consumer or absorbed by the operator.

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<p><b>Tuesday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Aruba Has Talent</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Violin Night</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Noche Latina</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Aruba Has Talent</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Circus Night</b></p>	<p><b>Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Liquid Firework Show</b></p>

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## Restaurant Study Impact: Pressure points increase challenges within the business

Continued from Page 14

Sin tax: another cost for the operator where he/she did not feel that increases could be passed on to the consumer. In the meantime our customers have chosen another beverage during dinner: water. A rum Coke (Sugar Tax) combined with sin tax will make this a luxury drink and sodas for \$5, 00 considered outrageous are becoming closer to reality with the sugar tax. Consumers will not point a finger at the government but at the "greedy" F&B operations not being aware of either sin or sugar tax.

Minimum wage: one day after sitting down in a tripartite meeting the Minister of Labor unilaterally increased minimum wage. Not many employees in our sector make minimum wage but go home with substantial salaries twice, triple and more the minimum wage, yet it will have a cost increasing effect on the sector. Other than the above the industry faces red tape in almost every phase of operations like obtaining a restaurant permit, working permits for functions. Arubans have no interest in filling (cooks, dishwashers, bartenders). Permits instead of becoming easier to obtain are tedious and challenging to say the least in just every aspect of Aruban business life. On a regular basis the fifth or the tenth permit are denied with no proper replacement and ladies



and gentlemen with hotel expansion: This and next year it will not get any better. Our youth is not waiting to work evenings, weekends, and holidays, working for the government means that they will pay a salary to even your children while you are set for life.

### Conclusion

AGA: "Unfortunately, we are experiencing a business climate which does not entice investments.... And we need investments. Investments in the way that at least comply with government regulation and we see it in the impact study: We see more casual businesses on the rise but worse we see more F&B initiatives that are driven from cars at constructions sites, homes, food trucks, trailers, Facebook and we ask ourselves if these operations pay their fair share as we do. Based on several letters to the PM last year a multi ministerial task force will soon sit down with AGA/ AHATA to see how these challenges can be minimized or solved. We have to admit we feel skeptical after the installation of a tripartite caucus where decisions were taken ignoring the entire private sector.

Commitments made by the PM in regards to BBO/BAVP/BAZV in Parliament and a decision by the Minister of Finances differ and have not made us very optimistic to say the least. Dialogue is key!" With more rooms added to the island's inventory (O condominium/ Acqua, Embassy Suites/ Airport Hotel) to mention just a few and more in the pipe-line, we wonder how long our Bubali water processing plant can handle the current and new developments, how will we clean the additional rooms, how will we cook and serve, how will we fill the vacancies generally requiring work in the evening, weekend and holidays. Our service level as monitored by ATA has dropped from Excellent to Very Good and Fair should not be acceptable but realistic in several enterprises, says AGA. This may sound as a bummer at the end of a wonderful presentation of the Economic Impact of the UOA on the F&B Industry in Aruba, however, AGA/ AF&BA wants to ensure at the same time that at the next interval of a follow up study by the UOA, our industry has grown and has solved the many issues the industry is facing at this moment. It will, however, take two of us to tango and we hope that Private and Public sector together can convert the current red tape atmosphere into red carpet scenarios. We ask this on behalf of the 7000 employees we now know find their daily bread and butter in the F&B industry. □





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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island



**PALM BEACH** — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Edward and Susan Bonus** from Washington, who have been coming to Aruba for 20 years consecutively.

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, safety, delicious drinking water, and Aruba's warm and friendly people

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort and Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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# Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

## Showing Your Age

**ORANJESTAD —** As someone who grew up in the 90's I tend to show my age by the references like owning a blackberry and using bbpin before whatsapp was a thing. Every generation has some throwback reference that defines the period they grew up in. The same way individuals show their age, timeshare resorts are also starting to show theirs.

In previous articles I've mentioned the fact that some timeshare resorts on the Island have been around for 30-40+ years. A fact made even clearer when considering some of my most senior colleagues have seen three to four generations of the same family.

One of the most stark reminders of how old timeshare is though, is the near constant news of members either selling their rooms because they can no longer fly to Aruba due to medical conditions, they relinquish their rights to the rooms because of being retired and on fixed incomes or the worst one receiving news of their passing away. Considering that the target age group for most new timeshare owners is about 50-52.5 years of age at the time of purchase, long time members are pushing their 80's and 90's at the moment.



Every year the goal to find younger members who fit the criteria to be interested in timeshare becomes more imperative. Aruba's timeshare market however makes that task more difficult with every resort competing for the pool of potential new owners, it's almost a blood sport. A lot of timeshares have moved away from the traditional model and branched out their rentals programs in order to keep the rooms occupied and trying to generate interest from those that come in.

The shifting tide also affects our exchange program companies. In the very beginning resorts could partner up with both of the two largest companies, namely RCI and Interval International, in an effort to generate more interest not only for our resorts but also for these companies. Using them as a sales tool to advertise that timeshare can take you anywhere in the world. As times have changed and the market has gotten more competitive, newer properties don't have the option of both, they need to sign up exclusively with one of the companies. In the meantime legacy properties are being pulled to push one product over the other, with constant calls, emails and sales pitches from both companies.

The benefit of this tug of war however comes in the form of information and resources that timeshares just don't have the time to collect. Used correctly it gives timeshare properties new avenues to explore in finding new potential buyers who will once again be interested in our properties for the long haul, be it so they can use it for exchange, a family retreat or even as a company perk for employees.

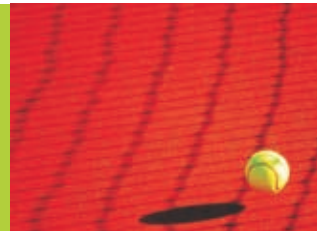
The age issue then rears its ugly head in what I mentioned before, senior employees. If they are unable or unwilling to use the information provided in an effective manner then you're basically trying to paddle up a waterfall. The future of timeshare relies on our ability to start adapting to social trends, using market research effectively and making sure we have the right people, be it in management, line employees or the board of directors, in place to encourage growth by the most effective means necessary. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.



# SPORTS



Sir Winston trainer Mark Casse lifts up the August Belmont Trophy after Sir Winston won the 151st running of the Belmont Stakes horse race, Saturday, June 8, 2019, in Elmont, N.Y.

Associated Press

## Another Triple Crown surprise: Sir Winston takes Belmont

By TOM CANAVAN  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sir Winston provided a perfect finish to a crazy Triple Crown. After a disqualification in the Kentucky Derby and a runaway horse in the Preakness, of course the Belmont Stakes goes to a 10-1 long shot.

Sir Winston captured the \$1.5 million race Saturday, holding off favored Tacitus by a length.

The win gave trainer Mark Casse the final two jewels in the showcase for 3-year-old thoroughbreds. He won the Preakness with War of Will, who was expected to battle Tacitus in the 1 1/2 mile Belmont.

Instead, Casse's other's colt took the lead after a ground-saving ride by Joel Rosario. It wasn't really a shock to Casse.

"I said all week he was doing really well," Casse said. "He had a race over the track. What can I say? It's just exciting."

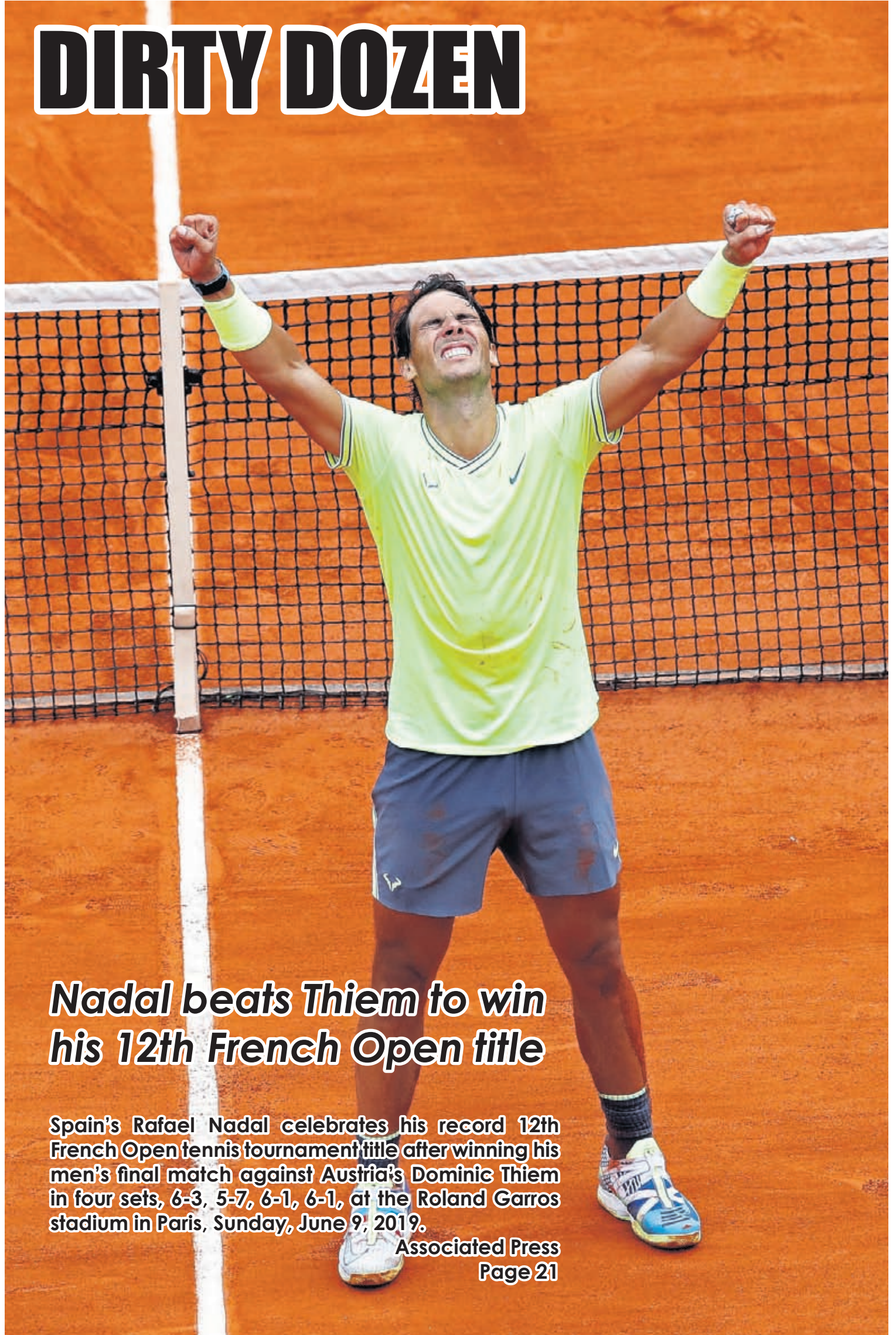
Continued on Page 20

# DIRTY DOZEN

## Nadal beats Thiem to win his 12th French Open title

Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates his record 12th French Open tennis tournament title after winning his men's final match against Austria's Dominic Thiem in four sets, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Associated Press  
Page 21





## McIlroy wins Canadian Open with scorching final-round 61

**ANCASTER, Ontario (AP)** — Rory McIlroy ran away with the Canadian Open, closing with a 9-under 61 on Sunday for a seven-shot victory.

Starting the day in a three-way tie for the lead, McIlroy ended any suspense about who would emerge as the champion with five birdies in his first seven holes, none from longer than 8 feet.

It was McIlroy's 16th PGA Tour victory and 25th win worldwide, and the fourth by at least seven shots. The world's fourth-ranked player will hope to ride the momentum into next week's U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

The only question on the back nine was whether McIlroy would shoot the 11th sub-60 round in PGA Tour history. He made four straight birdies from Nos. 11-14, and a bogey on the par-3 16th stalled him only momentarily. He followed

with a 7-iron from 196 yards to 2½ feet for eagle on the par-5 17th to get to 10 under at par-70 Hamilton Golf and Country Club.

But he missed the green on the par-4 18th and his bunker shot went long. He ended up tapping in for bogey to finish at a tournament-record 22-under 258. The 61 equaled the low round of McIlroy's PGA Tour career.

Shane Lowry and Webb Simpson tied for second at 15 under.

Adam Hadwin, seeking to become the first Canadian winner of the event since 1954, closed with a 70 and finished sixth, 10 shots back. His consolation prize was a spot in the British Open at Royal Portrush in July.

Graeme McDowell also earned his place in the British Open. The native of Portrush, Northern Ireland, guaranteed a tee time in his hometown by holing a

hard-breaking 29-footer for par on the par-4 18th to shoot 68 and finish in a tie for eighth. This year's Open will be the first in Northern Ireland since its only previous visit to Royal Portrush in 1951.

A third spot was available at the British Open for a player not already eligible who finished inside the top 10, but the other top-10 finishers were exempt from qualifying.

The victory in McIlroy's Canadian Open debut was his fifth in a national open, following the U.S. Open (2011), Australian Open (2013), British Open (2014) and Irish Open (2016). McIlroy also counts the Hong Kong Open (2011) as part of his national-championship tally. □



Rory McIlroy laughs after putting on a Toronto Raptors jersey during the trophy presentation at the Canadian Open golf championship in Ancaster, Ontario, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Associated Press

## Lexi Thompson rallies for 2-stroke win at ShopRite LPGA Classic

**GALLOWAY, N.J. (AP)** — Lexi Thompson made a 20-foot putt for an eagle on the 18th hole Sunday to complete a late comeback and win the ShopRite LPGA Classic.

Trailing Jeongeun Lee6 by two strokes after the 15th, Thompson finished birdie-par-eagle to finish up a round of 4-under-par 67 and a 54-hole score of 12-under 201.

She posted her 11th career LPGA Tour victory, extended his streak to seven straight years with at least one win on the tour.

Lee6, the champion of last week's U.S. Women's Open who was playing two groups behind Thompson, lost her lead with three consecutive bogeys from holes 13 through 15 over the Bay Course at Seaview before bouncing back with a birdie at No. 16 to tie Thompson.

However, needing an eagle to force a playoff after reaching the green in two,

she just missed a 45-foot putt to tie and had to settle for a birdie, giving her a 70 and second place at 202. Ally McDonald, seeking her first career LPGA Tour victory, challenged on the back nine and took third place at 204 following a 70.

Two-time ShopRite LPGA champion Anna Nordqvist had a 69 for fourth place at 206.

Mariah Stackhouse, who began the day one stroke off the lead, fell back with a double bogey at the fifth hole and couldn't come back.

Her round of 74 left her in a three-way tie for fifth at 207 with Ariya Jutanugarn (68) and Yu Liu (72).

Thompson's win came nine years after she made her debut at age 15 as a professional in the 2010 ShopRite LPGA Classic, where she missed the cut. It is her 11th LPGA Tour victory, and first since last year's season-ending CME Group Tour Championship. □

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Jockey Joel Rosario, atop Sir Winston (7), right, reacts as after crossing the finish line ahead of Tacitus (10), with jockey Jose Ortiz up, to win the 151st running of the Belmont Stakes horse race, Saturday, June 8, 2019, in Elmont, N.Y.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 18

Sir Winston, who was making his Triple Crown debut, finished second in the Peter Pan Stakes, the traditional prep for the Belmont. Rosario rode him for the first time in that race, and the two put on a show Satur-

day in front of a crowd of 56,217, earning \$800,000 for owner Tracy Farmer. Long shot Joevia finished third and Tax was fourth. The Triple Crown grind caught up to Preakness winner War of Will, who ran in all three races. He finished ninth in the 10-horse field.

## Sir Winston

"I could see where War of Will was struggling a little bit," Casse said. "He looked like maybe he was a little flat today."

The Belmont capped an entertaining Triple Crown highlighted by the disqualification of Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby. It sparked interest in thoroughbred racing despite no possibility of the third Triple Crown winner in five years, coming on the heels of Justify last year and American Pharoah in 2015. It was all positive. There were no tragedies on the track. No horses died.

The Belmont was a jockey's race and Rosario was the right rider on a horse full of run.

Breaking from the No. 7 post, Rosario guided the chestnut colt to the rail for

an energy-saving trip. Sir Winston was eighth for the first half-mile and then started to rally on the final turn. Up front, 21-1 long shot Joevia continued to set the pace with Tax closely tracking. In the stretch, Rosario angled Sir Winston — named for Winston Churchill — off the rail and slightly bothered stable-mate War of Will.

This time, there was no inquiry or objection. Sir Winston surged to the lead with an eighth of a mile to go and held off a late run from Tacitus, who had an extremely wide trip under jockey Jose Ortiz.

The second-place finish denied trainer Bill Mott two-thirds of the Triple Crown. His Country House was awarded first place in the Kentucky Derby.

Sir Winston paid \$22.40, \$8.80 and \$6.10. Tacitus returned \$3.90 and \$3.20 as the 9-5 favorite. Joevia hung on for third, paying \$8.70.

After Tax, Master Fencer was fifth followed by Spinoff, Everfast, Intrepid Heart, War of Will and Bourbon War. The winning time was 2:28.30 on the fast track under sunny skies.

The win was the third in 10 starts for the slow-developing Sir Winston.

Casse always believed in the horse despite early struggles.

"We're very proud of him," the 58-year-old trainer said. "He's kind of what our operation represents. We develop horses. The first two times he ran, he got beat 10 or 20 lengths. I can remember having a conversation with Mr. Farmer up at Saratoga and I said 'Don't give up on him.'" The feeling paid off — big time.

This unpredictable Triple Crown season started with a wild result in the Kentucky Derby. Maximum Security crossed the finish line first and become the first apparent winner to be disqualified, taken down for interfering with War of Will in the stretch. Country House was elevated to first, giving Mott his first Derby win and becoming the second longest shot (65-1) to win the Derby.

War of Will came back two weeks later to win the Preakness, but his impressive performance was overshadowed when a rival threw his jockey and ran around the track as the race continued.

There were three major races on the Belmont undercard.

Mitole extended his winning streak to seven with a gutsy victory in the \$1.2 million Metropolitan Handicap. Pressing the pacesetting Coal Front every step, Mitole put away that rival in midstretch and held off the late challenge by 8/5 favorite McKinzie to prevail by three quarters of a length. Thunder Snow, the richest active thoroughbred with over \$16 million in earnings, was third. □

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## Nadal wins 12th French Open for 18th Slam title

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — For a few, fleeting moments Sunday, Rafael Nadal found his French Open supremacy seemingly threatened by Dominic Thiem, a younger, talented opponent challenging him in the final for the second consecutive year.

A poor game from Nadal allowed Thiem to break him and even things at a set apiece. That development brought fans to their feet in Court Philippe Chatrier, roaring and clapping and, above all, wondering: Was this, now, a real contest? Could Thiem push Nadal more? Could Thiem make this surge last? Would Nadal falter?

That the questions arose at all was significant. The answers arrived swiftly. Nadal reasserted himself, as he usually does at Roland Garros, by grabbing 16 of the next 17 points and 12 of the remaining 14 games, pulling away to beat Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for his record-extending 12th championship at the French Open.

"He stepped on me," Thiem said. "The numbers are crazy. He won it 12 times."

No one in tennis ever has won any major tournament that frequently. Then again, no one ever has been as suited for success on any of the sport's surfaces as this 33-year-old Spaniard is on red clay: Nadal is 93-2 for his career at Roland Garros, winning four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14, and now three in a row.

"I can't explain my emotions," said the No. 2-seeded Nadal, who dropped to his back after the final point, getting that rust-colored dirt all over his neon yellow shirt, then wiped away tears during the trophy ceremony.



**Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates his record 12th French Open tennis tournament title after winning his men's final match against Austria's Dominic Thiem in four sets, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 9, 2019.**

phy ceremony.

Looking at the bigger picture, he is now up to 18 Grand Slam trophies, moving within two of Roger Federer's men's record of 20. Nadal, however, did not want to entertain any discussion of a pursuit of Federer. "I am not very worried about this stuff," Nadal said. "You can't be frustrated all the time because the neighbor has a bigger house than you or a bigger TV or better garden."

Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian who was seeded No. 4 and upset No. 1 Novak Djokovic in a draining, rain-interrupted semifinal played over two days, was eyeing his first major title in this rematch of the 2018 final in Paris. But again, he couldn't solve Nadal.

"First thing that I want to say is congrats to Dominic. I feel sorry, because he deserves it here, too," Nadal said. "He has an unbelievable intensity."

So, of course, does Nadal. This had been, by his lofty

standards, a rough season, from the most lopsided Grand Slam final loss of his career — against Djokovic at the Australian Open — to entering May without a title for the first year since 2004. Injuries, as often is the case with Nadal, were a problem, including a bad right knee.

"Mentally, I lost a little bit (of) energy, because I had too many issues in a row," Nadal said, tapping his right fingers on his temple.

"When you are constantly hit in the face," he said in Spanish, "you end up being hurt." He started to right himself by taking the Italian Open title on clay last month. "It was very important for him to win in Rome. It was like he realized that he was getting back on the good level, on the right path," said Nadal's coach, 1998 French Open champion Carlos Moya, "and gaining a lot of confidence."

Soon enough, Nadal found himself in a familiar position in Paris: playing in the final,

and winning it.

This one began on a cloudy afternoon, with the temperature in the low 60s (mid-teens Celsius) and only a slight breeze. In the initial game — interrupted briefly by a baby wailing in the stands, drawing a laugh from other spectators and prompting Nadal to back away from the baseline between serves — three of the five points lasted at least 11 strokes.

And, thereby, a pattern was established: By the end of the 3-hour, 1-minute match, a total of 46 points went 10 strokes or more. Each man claimed half. From the get-go, it was such a physical grind that Nadal was soaked with sweat and changed neon yellow shirts after just seven games, eliciting catcalls from the stands.

Early on, there were no signs of fatigue for Thiem, even though he was competing for a fourth straight day. Indeed, it was Thiem who nosed ahead first, clos-

ing a 12-stroke exchange by ripping a forehand to earn the first break point, then converting it with an overhead on a 20-stroke exchange for a 3-2 edge. He turned with a clenched right hand to face his guest box, where his girlfriend, women's doubles champion Kristina Mladenovic, was pumping her fist and shouting.

Nadal immediately responded. He grabbed the next four games with elan, using a drop shot to help break for a 5-3 lead, then a serve-and-volley to help hold for the set.

That must have been demoralizing for Thiem. But at the ensuing changeover, he didn't whack a ball toward the stands, as Federer memorably did during his semifinal loss to Nadal. Thiem casually sat in his gray sideline seat, bounced his legs and chewed on an energy bar, furtively glancing at Nadal.

Thiem bounced back, if only briefly. Talk about a stunning shift: Nadal won 25 of 26 points on his serve before — with spectators trading between-point chants of nicknames, "Rafa!" and "Do-mi!" — he got broken to cede the second set. That was the only set Thiem managed to steal from Nadal in four career meetings at Roland Garros. Maybe this was going to be a long one. But Thiem, put simply, wilted. Enough to create an opening Nadal barged through.

By now, Nadal was creating magic at the net, and he won the point on 23 of 27 times he went forward. One drop volley was spun so marvelously that it landed on Thiem's side, then bounced back toward the net. All Thiem could do was watch — and offer an appreciative thumbs-up. □



# VanVleet, Raptors aren't smiling now, but they might be soon

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
AP Basketball Writer

**TORONTO (AP)** — Fred VanVleet had a face that only a country of hockey fans could love.

A bandage covering stitches under his right eye. Swelling near the side of his nose. Fresh dental work to repair a damaged tooth.

His day off in the NBA Finals consisted of a trip to the hospital and then the dentist, necessary stops after he was hit in the face and bloodied late in Game 4, when he had to leave the court with part of his tooth somewhere still on it.

The play hurt, but the Toronto Raptors have a team of guys who would take the pain.

"Yeah, we got some tough guys," VanVleet said.

And they've overcome tough situations.

The Raptors were down and almost out in the Eastern Conference finals, in danger of falling into a hole from which no NBA team has ever recovered. But they pulled out Game 3 of that series against Milwaukee to kick off a powerful postseason run, and the only thing that might slow them down is stopping to collect the Larry O'Brien Trophy.

Toronto can do that Monday by beating the Golden State Warriors at home in Game 5.

"It's going to be a battle,



Toronto Raptors guard Fred VanVleet lies on the floor as blood flows from below his eye during the second half of Game 4 against the Golden State Warriors in basketball's NBA Finals, Friday, June 7, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

it's going to be hard, but at the same time if we stay together and do everything we're supposed to do, we have a chance. We have a good chance to put ourselves in a position to win," Raptors forward Pascal Siakam said.

The first trip to the NBA Finals in franchise history appeared it might have to wait at least another year when the Raptors fell behind in the second overtime of Game 3 of the conference finals. Kawhi Leonard's leg seemed to be hurting, Kyle Lowry had already fouled out and a victory would have given

Milwaukee a 3-0 lead that has been insurmountable in the NBA.

The Raptors recovered to win and have barely looked back, winning seven of eight games against the Bucks and Warriors, the No. 1 seeds in each conference. Coach Nick Nurse had seen the possibilities from his team even before the comeback started, first with how the Raptors played so well in Game 1 of the conference finals after needing seven grueling games against Philadelphia in the previous round, and then by the way they shrugged off a blowout loss

in Game 2.

"So that's probably a moment of where I thought the team had something inside them to keep on going," Nurse said.

What Toronto didn't have at that point was a reliable offense beyond Leonard. Veterans Lowry, Danny Green and Marc Gasol had struggled to make shots. The bench was contributing only sporadically. That isn't happening anymore. The Raptors made 17 3-pointers in their Game 3 victory at Golden State and have hit 10 or more in 10 straight games. VanVleet from the perimeter and

**Associated Press**

Serge Ibaka on the interior have come off the bench to provide big boosts.

"Most teams, they're expecting their bench to be better than ours," Green said, "and when they come in outplaying their bench or giving us a huge plus against their starters, it's due for a win when you've got guys performing like that off the bench."

VanVleet will be back out there trying to keep doing it Monday — this time wearing a mouthpiece — after having to leave Game 4 when he was inadvertently hit in the face by Shaun Livingston while running back on defense. He had a CT scan to make sure there were no broken bones in his face and said he has no concussion symptoms.

He wouldn't show off his dental work Sunday, but that made him just like his Raptors teammates who walked off the floor without hints of satisfaction on their faces after Game 4.

They are too focused on keeping their run going, though they'll be smiling plenty if they can get one more win.

"Now is the time to lock in even more," VanVleet said. "We've been doing it, we've proven that we can do it. It's not time to change anything that we've done, it's just time to do it a little bit better, a little harder and a little smarter." □



Washington Nationals players celebrate on the field after defeating the San Diego Padres in a baseball game on Sunday, June 9, 2019, in San Diego.

By **BERNIE WILSON**  
AP Sports Writer

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Howie Kendrick, Trea Turner, Adam Eaton and Anthony

Rendon hit consecutive home runs off Craig Stammen with one out in the eighth inning and Stephen Strasburg beat his home-

**Associated Press**

## Nationals hit 4 straight homers in 8th to stun Padres 5-2

town team again as the Washington Nationals defeated the San Diego Padres 5-2 Sunday.

The Nationals became the first team in major league history to accomplish the feat twice, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The other time was July 27, 2017, against Milwaukee.

With the score tied at 1, Kendrick was pinch-hitting for Strasburg (7-3) when he started the homer parade with a shot to left, his 11th. Turner followed with a drive to center, his fourth, and Eaton's homer just cleared

the wall in center, his sixth. Fans began booing then, and piled on after Rendon homered to right-center, his 12th.

The homers came in a span of seven pitches by Stammen (4-3), who was the fourth Padres pitcher to throw on a "bullpen day." Kendrick's homer went 421 feet, Turner's 425, Eaton's 402 and Rendon's 391. Strasburg held San Diego to one run and six hits in seven innings while striking out six. He improved to 8-2 in his career against the Padres and to 4-1 in five starts at

Petco Park. He pitched at West Hills High in suburban Santee before pitching for the late Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn at San Diego State. Luis Perdomo started for the Padres, pitching 3 1/3 innings of two-hit ball and allowing only an unearned run.

Washington took a 1-0 lead on an unearned run in the first without the benefit of a hit. Leadoff batter Turner reached on an error by Ian Kinsler on a popup, advanced on Eaton's groundout and scored on Rendon's groundout. □



## Venezuela shreds sloppy U.S. defense early for 3-0 win

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Sloppy defense, a poor goal-keeping decision, wasted chances. The United States set another historical marker in its latest shutout loss, and it was not the good kind.

Down by three goals after only 36 minutes, the U.S. fell to Venezuela 3-0 Sunday in its final exhibition tuneup for the CONCACAF Gold Cup. A young team showed its inexperience with little more than a week left before the tournament opener.

"Obviously I know what the narrative's going to be, that we have no chance, that we're going to lose and maybe not even make it out of the first round," coach Gregg Berhalter said. The Americans wrote the narrative with their two unsettling exhibition losses. On Wednesday, the U.S. lost to Jamaica 1-0, only its second home defeat to a Caribbean nation in a half-century. Forward Josh Sargent and six others were cut from the roster a day later.

The revamped roster had another historical throwback when Venezuela surged ahead 3-0, marking the first time the U.S. trailed by three goals in an opening half since June 4, 2011, against world champion Spain.

Salomón Rondón had two of the goals, moving



United States goalkeeper Zack Steffen (1) reacts after being scored on by Venezuela forward Jose Salomon Rondon (23) during the first half of an international friendly soccer match, Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Cincinnati.

ahead of Juan Arango for the Venezuelan career scoring record with 24, and La Vinotinto beat the Americans for the first time after three defeats and two draws.

"I think we're humbled right now and we're ready to learn from our mistakes," defender Aaron Long said. "We had good chances today, and the score could have been a lot different. We're not going to hang our heads and say a 3-0 loss and we're playing terrible." Up next is 175th-ranked Guyana in the Gold Cup opener June 18 in St. Paul, Minnesota, the first competitive match for the

Americans in 20 months. The defense was the most glaring issue this time, with Berhalter describing it as "really careless." Many of the 23,955 fans at Nippert Stadium, home of the Major League Soccer's new Cincinnati team, booed as the half ended.

The U.S. enters the Gold Cup with an unproven goalkeeper for the first time in three decades.

A bad decision by Zack Steffen, who was in goal for the second straight game, set up Venezuela's first score. His careless pass was intercepted, and Steffen was out of position as Rondón got the ball from

Jhon Murillo and scored his 23rd international goal.

Rather than clearing the ball to his left, Steffen sent it into trouble just ahead of the penalty area. Another defensive lapse off a throw-in set up Venezuela's second score. Jefferson Savarino hit the left post but tracked the carom past two stuck-in-place defenders and scored from the right side, his first international goal in 10 appearances.

Rondón circled around Long, who was late to get into position, for an unobstructed shot and the third goal.

"It's a tough spot and it can

be solved earlier with me just tracking back faster," Long said.

The U.S. is still refining its lineup for the tournament, and several players were held out Sunday as they worked into shape. Christian Pulisic joined the team on Thursday and didn't play. Forward Jonathan Lewis and midfielder Michael Bradley are recovering from hamstring strains, and Tyler Adams does not report until Tuesday.

Forward Tyler Boyd made his U.S. debut, one of five lineup changes. The 24-year-old attacker made five appearances for New Zealand before FIFA approved his switch to the U.S. last month. Forward Jozy Altidore made his first appearance since the October 2017 loss at Trinidad and Tobago that ended the Americans' streak of seven World Cup appearances. No matter. The scoreless streak for the U.S. reach 266 minutes as the Americans misfired or were denied on chances in the second half.

Berhalter was hired in December to implement an attacking, possession-oriented style, and he lamented a lack of speed and aggression against Jamaica. Only two players were positioned in the penalty area much of the time, which became a focus for improvement in Sunday's game. □

## Cup race at Michigan postponed because of rain

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

**BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP)** —

The break in NASCAR's Cup Series schedule will have to wait at least an extra day. Sunday's race at Michigan International Speedway was postponed because of rain. It was rescheduled for Monday at 5 p.m. EDT, the second time in just over a month that a Cup race has been pushed past the weekend because of weather.

The race at Dover early last month was also pushed to Monday. That left a quick turnaround before the fol-



Clint Bowyer stands on pit row waiting out the rain delay during the NASCAR cup series auto race at Michigan International Speedway, Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Brooklyn, Mich.

Associated Press

lowing Saturday's race at this time. The Cup schedule has an open date next

weekend before resuming June 23 at Sonoma. Of course, that means this delay eats into that time off.

Sunday's race never began, and the postponement was announced after a delay of about 2½ hours from the scheduled start time. There was a brief moment, about 90 minutes before the postponement, when a start seemed imminent. Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia, the grand marshal, even gave the command for drivers to start their engines. Cars were on the track, but rain quickly forced them to come onto

pit road. It turned out the biggest entertainment of the day may have been Bubba Wallace and Corey LaJoie throwing and kicking a football around while everyone waited. Daniel Hemric was also involved.

"Is it a bad thing that my most famous moment in a firesuit is slinging a pigskin at a large group of fans?" LaJoie tweeted. "NAH."

Last year's June race at Michigan was shortened by rain, but it ended on Sunday as planned. Clint Bowyer won that one. Kevin Harvick won the August Cup race at MIS. □



# Schools reckon with social stress: 'I'm on my phone so much'

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**

**Associated Press**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — High school biology teacher Kelly Chavis knew smartphones were a distraction in her class. But not even her students realized the psychological toll of their devices until an in-class experiment that, of course, was then spreading on social media.

For one class period, students used a whiteboard to tally every Snapchat, Instagram, text, call or other notification that popped up. Teachers around the country have run similar experiments, typically recording dozens of trips to the board.

"One girl, just during the one hour, got close to 150 Snapchat notifications. 150!" marveled Chavis, who teaches honors-level courses at Rock Hill Schools in South Carolina.

She's among a growing number of teachers, parents, medical professionals and researchers convinced that smartphones are now playing a major role in accelerating student anxiety — a trend so pervasive that a National Education Association newsletter labelled anxiety a "mental health tsunami."

Testing, extracurricular-packed schedules, and perpetual stressors like poverty can all weigh on students. But research now points to smartphone-driven social media as one of the biggest drivers of stress. After all, that's where college acceptance letters fill Instagram, everyone knows where everyone else is going for spring break, and athletic failures and awkward social moments can live forever.

Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State who has studied the issue, said it's no coincidence that youth mental health issues have risen with the number of phones. "What a lot of teens told me is that social media and their phones feel mandatory," she said.

Last year, an editorial in the American Academy of Pediatrics' flagship journal



**In this Nov. 1, 2018, file photo, Laurel Foster, among teens involved in Stanford University research testing whether smartphones can be used to help detect depression and potential self-harm, holds her phone in San Francisco.**

recommended that doctors ask adolescent patients about their social media use as part of routine screening, alongside older questions about home life and drug and sexual activity. "Aberrant and/or excessive social media usage" could contribute to teenage "feelings of isolation, depressive symptoms, and anxiety," three researchers wrote in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Researchers are still arguing whether phones drive student depression or depression drives phone use. But 70 percent of teens view anxiety and depression as major problems among their peers, according to a February Pew Research Center report. Nearly 60 percent of parents said

they worry about the influence of social media on their child's physical and mental health in the American Psychological Association's 2017 Stress in America survey.

Schools are starting to react. Many districts now hire outside companies to monitor students' social media postings for signs of distress. Others invite in yoga instructors and comfort dogs to teach even the youngest kids to keep technology from putting them on edge.

Belfast Area High School in Maine even staged an #unplugged event day in April — but it served to underline the technology's pull when less than 20 percent of students and staff took part.

**Associated Press**

When she first got a smartphone around seventh grade, all the posting, messaging and liking pushed Nia Coates' anxiety level to "probably a 10," she said. Now a high school junior, the Buffalo, New York, teen has figured out to manage the distractions.

She'll completely log out of her Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter, and sometimes will delete an app altogether for a while.

Anxiety has taken over as the most significant obstacle to learning among Chris Doyle's high school students at Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut. Some rack up absences because they feel overwhelmed by the day ahead, Doyle said.

A teacher for 30 years, he has seen a profound

shift toward constant self-evaluation that he associates with social media, YouTube, and even school grade portals sometimes checked dozens of times a day — things students have never before had to manage.

Awareness of other people's lives, even their private lives, is "kind of hyper right now," Doyle said. "And I don't think that usually leaves most people feeling good, because nobody's perfect and most kids feel very imperfect."

But putting the genie back in the bottle isn't easy. In Illinois, Glenbrook High Schools District 225 experimented with limiting teens' access to their grades on a digital portal. But for every student who said the grade book caused them anxiety, there was another who said losing regular access created even more stress, said instructional innovation director Ryan Bretag.

"I definitely feel stress with online profiles, social media, to keep up, maintain my profiles and stuff," said Emily Mogavero, a 17-year-old student in Buffalo, New York. "It kind of worries me that I'm on my phone so much." Mogavero said she sometimes puts her phone out of reach or powers it down so she doesn't hear notifications.

Teaching limits at an earlier age might help. Deirdre Birmingham of Montclair, New Jersey, signed onto a campaign called "Wait Until Eighth" because she didn't think her video game-loving 10-year-old son was ready to manage a smartphone's pull.

The idea, which got its start in Texas two years ago, is to lessen the peer pressure of being the only kid without a phone by enlisting parents of classmates to agree to hold off until at least eighth grade. So far, almost 20,000 people have signed on, founder Brooke Shannon said.

"I had a gut level that it would be difficult for my child to manage," Birmingham said. "As a grown-up, I find it difficult sometimes to manage." □



## How LGBT owners boost chances to win big business contracts

By **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In the early days of his information technology company, Sam Lehman looked for ways to differentiate his business from its many competitors. As he searched online, Lehman found the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, or NGLCC, which certifies companies as lesbian-, gay-, bisexual- or transgender-owned, helping them be more visible to potential clients and customers. Nine years ago, Columbia Consulting Group got its LGBT-owned certification and in turn, a boost in sales.

"Within five years it doubled our revenue," says Lehman, whose company is based in Stamford, Connecticut. "Eighty percent of our business comes from contacts I made through the NGLCC."

A growing number of LGBT business owners are seeking certification that helps them get contracts with companies including Fortune 500 corporations that have supplier diversity and inclusion programs. Certification is a way for these owners to gain acceptance across the country, including places where they have encountered discrimination, says Justin Nelson, president of the NGLCC.

While same-sex marriage is now legal in every state,



In this Tuesday, June 4, 2019, photo Helen Russell, left, and her partner Brooke McDonnell, co-founders of Equator Coffees, pose with a shirt they sell at their first cafe location in Mill Valley, Calif. Associated Press

gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender company owners may not be able to get credit in some states, and there are companies that don't want to do business with them. But Nelson believes the economic power of the LGBT population will create more opportunities for these businesses. "When we put an economic face on who LGBT owners are, people who think of us as this amorphous group and are willing to take our rights away then understand that we can have a company that has \$180 million in revenue," Nelson says. To be certified, a company must be at least 51% owned, oper-

ated, managed, and controlled by an LGBT person or people. It must also go through an application process much like companies certified as owned by women, minorities, veterans or veterans who became disabled during military service. Depending on the certification, it is made by an organization like the NGLCC or the government. Nelson says the NGLCC has certified 1,200 companies across the country, and he expects more LGBT owners to seek certification.

A growing number of state and local governments include LGBT owners in their supplier diversity and inclusion programs. The federal

government does not have a target for how many of its contracts are awarded to LGBT-owned firms although it does have targets for companies owned by women, minorities, veterans, service-disabled veterans and economically disadvantaged businesses. Helen Russell and Brooke McDonnell were able to get their Equator Coffee products into coffee bars at big tech companies in the San Francisco area once they were certified. "Certification matters. It just does. It's one more that thing that gets you in front of another group," Russell says. She finds that large companies that make

diversity and inclusion a priority want to buy from LGBT suppliers; when she mentions that San Rafael, California-based Equator is LGBT-owned, it catches purchasing executives' attention. Equator has gotten contracts after attending NGLCC events that include networking opportunities with big companies and also LGBT-owned firms. She also finds that certification helps win coffee-drinking customers. Certification also helps convince big companies that the small, LGBT-owned business seeking a contract is worth hiring, says Jackie Richter, co-owner of Heels & Hardhats, a contracting company based in Byron, Illinois, that does projects including roadwork and land clearing. Richter and her partner, Cyndi, have been sought out by Fortune 500 corporations. When she spoke at an NGLCC-sponsored event, supplier diversity executives approached her afterward.

Large companies with supplier diversity programs have started including LGBT-owned businesses in recent years. Having a diverse supplier base can be part of a corporate social responsibility strategy. But they're also motivated by profit — being diverse and inclusive can make a company's products and services more attractive to customers. □

## US consumer borrowing up \$17.5 billion in April

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Consumer borrowing accelerated in April to the fastest pace in five months as a rebound in credit card use offset slower demand for auto and student loans. Borrowing increased by \$17.5 billion, the Federal Reserve said Friday. That is up from March's \$11 billion advance and marks the biggest jump since a \$21.7 billion increase last November.

Borrowing on credit cards increased by \$7 billion after having fallen by \$2 billion in

March. Borrowing for auto and student loans slowed to an increase of \$10.5 billion, down from \$13 billion in March. It is the smallest advance since last June. Consumer credit is a key indicator of the willingness of households to increase borrowing to support consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of economic activity.

The April acceleration in borrowing represented a 5.2% increase following a 3.3% gain in March. It pushed total borrowing to a record \$4.07 trillion. The Fed's monthly report does

not cover mortgages or other loans backed by real estate.

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a 3.1% rate in the January-March quarter. Economists believe growth is slowing and will result in a GDP increase of around 2.5% for the year, down from 3.9% in 2018.

The Labor Department reported Friday that employers added just 75,000 jobs in May, down sharply from 224,000 jobs in April. Economists saw the hiring slowdown as evidence that



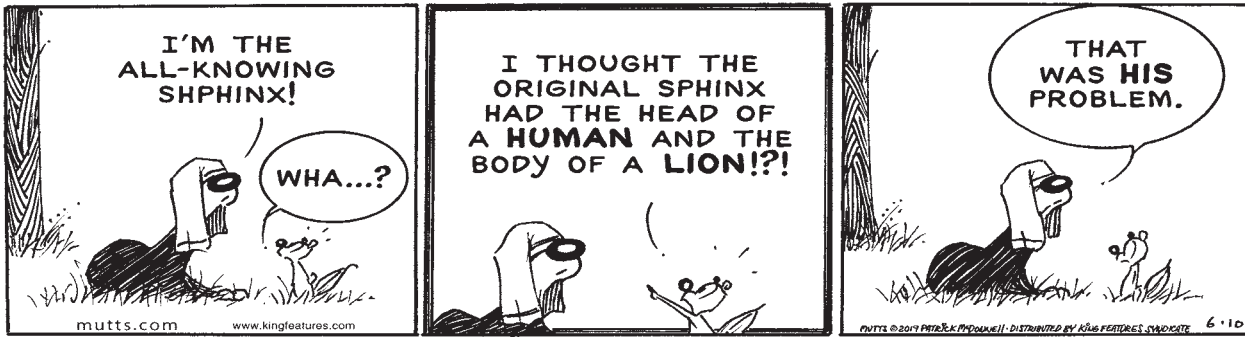
In this Feb. 20, 2019, file logos for credit cards are visible on the cards in Zelienople, Pa. Associated Press

business have become more cautious amid weak-

er global growth and widening trade conflicts. □



## Mutts



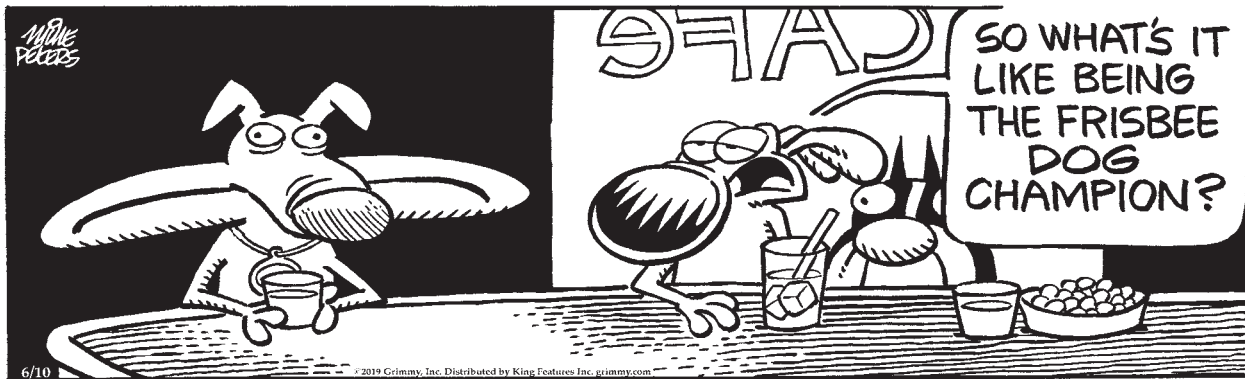
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	6	8		5			7	
7		2			6			5
				1	7		6	4
	7	3						
6		5		2		4		9
						3	5	
8	4		3	7				
2			1			8		6
	5			6		7	4	

Difficulty Level ★

6/10

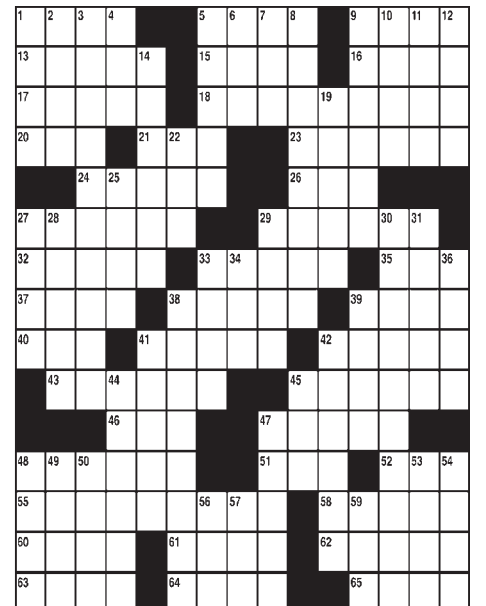
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

8	5	9	7	2	6	4	1	3
4	6	2	1	8	3	7	9	5
1	7	3	9	5	4	2	6	8
5	2	8	4	6	1	9	3	7
7	3	6	8	9	2	5	4	1
9	1	4	3	7	5	6	8	2
2	4	5	6	1	8	3	7	9
6	9	1	2	3	7	8	5	4
3	8	7	5	4	9	1	2	6

## ACROSS

- 1 on the wrist; gentle reprimand
- Adriatic & Black
- Con game
- Part of the leg
- Long-eared animal
- Vagabond
- Hot coal fragment
- Critter with an armor shell
- Golf term
- Actor Steiger
- Begin to relent
- Author Brontë
- Strike
- Resuscitate
- Unwanted nasal growths
- Upper crust
- Journal
- Rip off
- as a pancake
- Sicker than before
- Long sandwich
- All ; fully prepared
- Basins
- Flings
- Move around to get comfy
- Songbird
- "If I a Hammer"
- Wetland
- Like Jacuzzi waters
- Little jump
- Crony
- French town known for its lace
- Eat away at
- Rubber tube
- Stable newborn
- Composer Franz
- 2019, for one
- Catch sight of
- Flying insects



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/10/19

## DOWN

- " on it!"; cry to a slowpoke
- Peru's capital
- Shorten
- Bakery buy
- Disreputable
- Ossicle's location
- Upper limb
- Coast
- Cagey; devious
- Indianapolis athlete
- Competent
- Night light
- Show up
- Tiny lacy mat
- "Grand Opry"
- Catcher's glove
- Boxing officials
- Actress Burstyn
- Go by
- Assume
- Out of ; irritable
- Finished
- Annoy

## Saturday's Puzzle Solved

ATM	MOCHA	ALPS
REAR	AVRIL	COLE
FADE	DEALT	CLUE
RECTANGLE	ELMS	
TAMS	RIP	
THRONE	PRINTERS	
HOURS	FLUNK	AAA
ARMS	PRONG	TGIF
IDO	DIETS	PULSE
SERPENTS	CAREER	
OWN	MOCK	
FGHI	APPORTION	
LOUS	COLON	SMUG
ABLE	LOOSE	HIDE
WILD	ELDER	TEL

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6/10/19

- "Nonsense!"
- Sore
- Feral mammals, birds & fish
- Oxford or loafer
- Hurt
- "Fuzzy Wuzzy" bear...
- Begin
- Cutting tool
- Small church
- "Why don't we!"
- Black eye
- Alamos, NM
- Siesta hour
- Drink like Fido
- In a bashful way
- Curved bone



## Different ways to show paintings, photos to blind people

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — As people at the American Alliance of Museums' trade show passed their hands along the raised figures in touchable versions of a Vietnam War photograph, small metal sensors touched off recordings to explain whose picture they were touching and what had happened to him. At a nearby booth was a flat reproduction of a Van Gogh self-portrait with slightly raised, slicker areas to show both outlines and how brush strokes swept or swirled within those outlines.

Museums nationwide are working to make their collections more accessible for people with disabilities, said Elizabeth Merritt, vice president for strategic foresight for the alliance, which represents museums of all sorts, from tiny local history museums to huge zoos. Hours when lights and noise levels are kept low for people on the autism spectrum are another example of inclusiveness, she said, as are websites and smartphone apps designed to work with screen readers for the blind.

Not all touchable art is high-tech. The Singapore Art Museum commissioned three artists to make touchable adaptations of their own works, and plans more.

But tech has a big role.

3D Photoworks, of Chatham, New York, was created by photographer John Olson to make his work and other two-dimensional art accessible to the blind and visually handicapped. The company has digital artists carve out contours for scanned art. After the models are created, small metal sensors are added to trigger narrations about the work and the figures within which they're set.

"I've never seen anything like that, where it integrates touch and sound," said Sophie Trist, 22, who has been blind since birth.

Her favorite among three art works and a map was Romare Bearden's collage "Three Folk Musicians,"



**Norma Crosby, left, state president for the Texas chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, and Sophie Trist, a New Orleans chapter member, touch a bass relief of a photograph of the Vietnam Tet Offensive, by John Olson, whose company 3DPhotoworks also makes the bass relief, at the American Alliance of Museums Expo in New Orleans, Monday, May 20, 2019.**

Associated Press

showing two guitarists and a banjo player.

Without audio, she said, "I wouldn't have been able to tell the difference between a guitar and a banjo. ... Whereas if it were only the sound, it wouldn't be the full picture, either." She appreciated hearing the banjo and learning that it was invented by enslaved Africans.

Trist, a resident of suburban Mandeville, Louisiana, and a rising senior at Loyola University of New Orleans, was among several members of the National Federation for the Blind with Olson, who has partnered with the federation for about a decade.

Other high-tech adaptations noted by the alliance are 3-D models made by the Brooklyn Museum for

the "sensory tours" it has held for years for blind or partly sighted patrons. That museum also offers tours with headsets to amplify the guide's comments as well as tours in American Sign Language. In Claremont, California, at the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, described on its website as the only nationally accredited U.S. museum on a high school campus, students can scan fossils and create models of them.

The Louvre commissioned small low-relief models of parts of its exterior for exhibits about the museum's own eight-century history, said Philippe Moreau of Tactile Studio's Canada office, which did the work. The studio's many displays, diagonally across from Ol-

son's at the AAM expo, included one such model; the Van Gogh reproduction; a copy of a bust by French artist Jean-Baptist Carpeaux; and, from work for the Louvre of Abu Dhabi, a line drawing taken from a painting in a sacred Hindu text. It shows the buffalo demon Mahishasura fighting the many-armed goddess Durga. The outlines are in slick, slightly raised plastic, with text and Braille labels including "Sword and shield," "Arrows" and "Leaping lion" — the animal on which Durga is riding. □



### Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
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### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

### Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

### Editors

Richard Brooks  
Jencarlo Trinidad

### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia  
Pilar Flores  
Juan Luis Pinto

### Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Francees  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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June 12  
Monarch  
June 18  
Freedom of the Seas

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Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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Phone Directory Tel. 118





# Scientists feel chill of crackdown on fetal tissue research

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, MALCOLM RITTER and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — To save babies from brain-damaging birth defects, University of Pittsburgh scientist Carolyn Coyne studies placentas from fetuses that otherwise would be discarded — and she's worried this kind of research is headed for the chopping block.

The Trump administration is cracking down on fetal tissue research, with new hurdles for government-funded scientists around the country who call the special cells vital for fighting a range of health threats. Already, the administration has shut down one university's work using fetal tissue to test HIV treatments, and is ending other fetal tissue research at the National Institutes of Health.

"I knew this was something that's going to trickle down to the rest of us," said Coyne. She uses the placenta, which people may not think of as fetal tissue but technically is classified as such because the fetus produced it, to study how viruses such as Zika get past that protective barrier early in pregnancy.

"It seems to me what we're moving toward is a ban," she added. If so, when it comes to unraveling what happens in pregnancy and fetal development, "we're going to stay ignorant to a lot of things."

Different types of tissue left over from elective abortions have been used in scientific research for decades, and the work has been credited with leading to lifesaving vaccines and other advances. Under orders from President Donald Trump, the Health and



In this Tuesday, May 23, 2017 file photo, activists dressed as characters from "The Handmaid's Tale" chant in the Texas Capitol Rotunda as they protest SB8, a bill that would require health care facilities, including hospitals and abortion clinics, to bury or cremate any fetal remains whether from abortion, miscarriage or stillbirth, and they would be banned from donating aborted fetal tissue to medical researchers in Austin.

Human Services Department abruptly announced on Wednesday the new restrictions on taxpayer-funded research, but not privately funded work.

Aside from the cancellation of an HIV-related project at the University of California, San Francisco, university-led projects that are funded by the NIH — estimated to be fewer than 200 — aren't affected right away.

But as researchers seek to renew their funding or propose new studies, HHS said it will have to pass an extra layer of review, beyond today's strict scientific scrutiny. Each project will have a federal ethics board appointed to recommend whether NIH should grant the money.

HHS hasn't offered details but under the law authorizing the review process, that board must include not just biomedical experts but a theologian, and the nation's health secretary can overrule its advice.

"I predict over time we will see a slow and steady

elimination of federal funding for research that uses fetal tissue, regardless of how necessary it is," said University of Wisconsin law professor Alta Charo, a nationally recognized bioethics expert.

Necessity is the crux of a fierce debate between abortion foes and scientists about whether there are alternatives to fetal tissue for research.

Associated Press

Zika offers a glimpse at the difficulty. Somehow, the Zika virus can sneak from the mother's bloodstream across the placenta, which protects and nourishes the fetus, and target the fetus' brain. It's something researchers hope to learn to block.

Studying the placentas of small animals or even monkeys isn't a substitute because they differ from the

human organ, said Emory University researcher Mehul Suthar. For example, the specific type of placental cell where Zika can lurk in humans isn't thought to be present in mouse placentas.

And because the placenta continually changes as the fetus that created it grows, first-trimester tissue may show a very different vulnerability than a placenta that's expelled during full-term birth, when it's no longer defined as fetal tissue but as medical waste.

Suthar recently submitted a new grant application to study first- and second-trimester placental tissue, and is worried about its fate under the still uncertain ethics provision.

It "sounds a bit murky as to what the impact could be," he said. It could be small, "or it could be an outright ban on what we're doing."

Anti-abortion groups argue there are alternatives, such as stem cells, growing organ-like clumps of cells in lab dishes, or using tissue taken from newborns as they have heart surgery. □

## Bioengineered salmon won't come from U.S.'s biggest farm state

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — Genetically engineered salmon is heading to store shelves in the U.S., but it won't be coming from the biggest salmon farming state in the country.

Massachusetts-based AquaBounty Technologies has said American supermarkets could begin selling the much-debated fish by the end of next year. Its fish are modified with added genes from other fish to grow about twice as fast as conventional salmon.

The company modifies Atlantic salmon, a species that forms the backbone of the worldwide salmon aquaculture industry. Maine is the biggest producer of conventional Atlantic salmon in the U.S., sometimes producing more



This 2009 photo provided by AquaBounty Technologies shows a juvenile salmon raised at the company's hatchery in Fortune, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Associated Press

than 35 million pounds (15.9 million kilograms) of salmon per year, and its industry is poised to grow.

Two new major salmon farms are in the approvals process in the state. But fish farmers in Maine are not considering using the genetically engineered fish, said Sebastian Belle, executive director of the

Maine Aquaculture Association.

Numerous conditions would have to be met before that would change, including customers requesting the fish in stores, he said.

The group also feels the environmental assessment of the fish conducted by regulators was not rigorous enough, Belle said. □



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## 'Secret Life of Pets 2' bests 'Dark Phoenix' at box office

BY LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — After nearly 20 years and a dozen films, the current manifestation of X-Men movies is going out with a whimper. Scorched by poor reviews, the \$200 million "Dark Phoenix" earned a franchise low of \$33 million from 3,721 North American locations over the weekend for a second place finish, according to studio estimates

Sunday. First place went instead to "The Secret Life of Pets 2."

The Universal Pictures and Illumination sequel, featuring the voices of Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish and Harrison Ford in his first animated role, grossed an estimated \$47.1 million in ticket sales. Although less than half of what the first film opened to in 2016, it's still a major win for the studio, considering the production budget



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, from left, Snowball, voiced by Kevin Hart, Daisy, voiced by Tiffany Haddish and Pops, voiced by Dana Carvey in a scene from "The Secret Life of Pets 2."

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DARK PHOENIX  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25  
SAT-SUN 1:40 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

VIP CXC

PBP MON-THU 5:45 | 8:20  
FRI 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55  
SAT 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55  
SUN 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20

SPANISH

MON-THU 5:00 | 7:30  
FRI 5:00 | 7:30 | 10:00  
SAT 2:30 | 5:00 | 7:30 | 10:00  
SUN 2:30 | 5:00 | 7:30

NEW THIS WEEK!

PATTON OSWALT | KEVIN HART

**PETS 2**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 4:10 | 6:15 | 8:20  
FRI 4:10 | 6:15 | 8:20 | 10:25  
SAT 2:05 | 4:10 | 6:15 | 8:20 | 10:25  
SUN 2:05 | 4:10 | 6:15 | 8:20

PBP MON-THU 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40  
FRI 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40  
SAT 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40  
SUN 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40

SPANISH

MON-THU 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50  
FRI 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50 | 10:00  
SAT 1:50 | 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50 | 10:00  
SUN 1:50 | 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50

VERA FARMIGA | MILLIE BOBBY BROWN

**GODZILLA**  
KING OF MONSTERS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 4:50 | 7:40  
FRI 4:50 | 7:40 | 10:30  
SAT 2:00 | 4:50 | 7:40 | 10:30  
SUN 2:00 | 4:50 | 7:40

PBP MON-FRI 6:20 | 9:10  
SAT-SUN 12:45 | 3:30 | 6:20 | 9:10

VIP

PBP MON-THU & SUN 8:00  
FRI-SAT 8:00 | 10:50

KEANU REEVES | HALLE BERRY

**JOHN 3 WICK**  
PARADEISUM  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:35 | 8:30  
FRI 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00  
SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00  
SUN 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30

PBP MON-SUN 6:30 | 9:20

VIP

WILL SMITH | MENA MASSOUD

**Aladdin**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:50 | 8:40  
FRI 5:50 | 8:40 | 11:30  
SAT 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40 | 11:30  
SUN 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40

VIP

PBP MON-FRI 3:45  
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:45

OCTAVIA SPENCER | DIANA SILVERS

**MA**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-THU 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35  
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55  
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55  
SUN 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

RYAN REYNOLDS | JUSTICE SMITH

**PIKACHU**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-FRI 5:40  
SAT 1:00 | 3:20 | 5:40

ANNE HATHAWAY | REBEL WILSON

**HUSTLE**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:55  
SAT-SUN 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55

TARON EGERTON | JAMIE BELL

**ROCKETMAN**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 9:10

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was around \$80 million. Including international grosses, its global total is already sitting at \$97 million.

"It's a fantastic result," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic theatrical distribution. "We couldn't be more proud to partner with (CEO) Chris Meledandri and everyone at Illumination."

He noted that this is the ninth No. 1 opening for Illumination, the animated arm responsible for the "Despicable Me" movies. With decidedly less stellar results, "Dark Phoenix" trailed behind the talking animals. Directed by long-time X-Men scribe Simon Kinberg, it focuses on Jean Grey who is played by So-

phie Turner fresh off of her "Game of Thrones" run as Sansa Stark. It also brings back James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence. It's the de facto conclusion to the modern X-Men movies that started in 2000, and also the first major 20th Century Fox film to be released by the Walt Disney Co. following the acquisition.

But the quality wasn't there and it scored even worse reviews overall than the widely-disparaged "X-Men: Apocalypse." Audiences who showed up seemed to concur with the critics, giving it a deadly B- CinemaScore.

"It's softer than we hoped," said Cathleen Taff, Dis-

ney's president of theatrical distribution. "While the film didn't open the way we wanted, we think the legacy of the X-Men series is important and it's more important than how one film opens. We're trying to keep it in perspective."

Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore noted even with the lackluster North American debut and reception, that internationally "Dark Phoenix" was No. 1 with \$107 million from 53 territories including China. Globally, it earned \$140 million. "In the international marketplace, it seems like the spectacle and the brand wins out," Dergarabedian said. □

## Justin Rutledge turns the pages in 'Passages'

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

Justin Rutledge, "Passages" (Outside Music)

Justin Rutledge stands in a strong tradition of literate Canadian singer-songwriters — think Leonard Cohen, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell or the late Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip. Like the Hip, whose Rob Baker plays guitar on Rutledge's new album, he deserves to be better known outside his homeland. Rutledge's roots are in alt-country, and like the best country songwriters he has a knack for lyrics full of doubt and loss, set to jaunty tunes. It's

angst you can hum along to. On "Passages," his eighth studio album, Rutledge worked with a new band and producer Chris Stringer (Timber Timbre, the Wooden Sky). Guitar-dominated, but seasoned with piano and strings, the album sometimes achieves an Eagles-y Californian vibe: layered and ambient, with an intoxicating sheen. There's a languid melancholy to songs like "Captive" and "Weight of the World," while the title track is a wistful love song delivered with Beatles-esque strings.

Rutledge has a gift for lyr-



This cover image released by Outside Music shows "Passages," a release by Justin Rutledge.

ics that are simultaneously mysterious and vivid, and while his songs are often introspective, they are also fun. He rocks out enjoyably on the spirited, slide guitar-fueled "Good Man" — the first single — and the self-questioning anthem "Chains." □



## Olivia Colman gets royal honor ahead of debut in 'The Crown'

By JILL LAWLESS  
DANICA KIRKA  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Academy Award-winning actress Olivia Colman has been honored by Queen Elizabeth II - the monarch she is about to play on the Netflix royal family TV drama "The Crown."

Colman was named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, or CBE, in the annual Queen's Birthday Honors list.

The performer won a best-actress Oscar this year for playing 18th-century monarch Queen Anne in "The Favorite." She plays Elizabeth in the upcoming third season of "The Crown," which is currently in production.

Colman said she was "totally thrilled, delighted and humbled" by the honor.

The queen also made singer-songwriter Elvis Costello, 64, an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, or OBE - an honor far from his roots in Britain's punk and new wave scene during the 1970s.

In a website post entitled "In Her Majesty's Secret Service," Costello said he spoke with his mother before deciding to put aside "old doubts and enmities" about the crown and his



In this file photo dated Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018, Academy Award-winning actress Olivia Colman poses for photographers at the 75th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

country's past as the British Empire and "muster what little grace I possess" to accept the honor from the 93-year-old monarch Friday.

It was a task Costello made more palatable by dedicating the award to his grandfathers, who fought "for King and Country" during World War I, "and because my Mam told me to do it."

"To be honest, I'm pretty tickled to receive this ac-

knowledgement for my 'Services To Music' as it confirms my long held suspicion nobody really listens to the words in songs or the outcome might have been somewhat different," Costello wrote.

Other recipients of this year's Queen's Birthday Honors include British-Sri Lankan rapper MIA, whose real name Mathangi Arulpragasam, 43, and Andrew Roachford, the singer-songwriter behind the

band Roachford. Both were made a Member of the Order of the British Empire, or MBE, for services to music.

The honors are awarded twice a year, at New Year's and to mark the monarch's official birthday in June. (Elizabeth actually was born on April 21, so celebrates twice, as well.) They acknowledge hundreds of people for services to community or British national life.

In descending order, the main honors are knight-hoods, CBE, OBE and MBE. Knights are addressed as "sir" or "dame," followed by their name. Recipients of the other honors have no title, but can put the letters after their names.

The latest list included a knighthood for Simon Russell Beale, one of Britain's finest stage actors, who can now call himself Sir Simon.

Recipients are selected by committees of civil servants from nominations made by the government and the public, with the awards bestowed by the queen and other senior royals during Buckingham Palace ceremonies.

Famous faces typically are in the minority. Most go to activists and teachers, doctors and police officers - people who do big things in small communities and often labor for years without recognition.

Among this year's honorees were seven Holocaust survivors awarded British Empire medals for services to Holocaust education: Walter Kammerling, 95, Ernest Simon, 89, Gabrielle Keenaghan, 92, Ruzena Levy, 89, Ann Kirk, 90, Bob Kirk, 94, and George Hans Vulkan, 89. □

## Leon Redbone, acclaimed 1970s musician, dies

By MESFIN FEKADU  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Leon Redbone, the blues and jazz artist whose growly voice, Panama hat and cultivated air of mystery made him seem like a character out of the ragtime era or the Depression-era Mississippi Delta, died Thursday. He was 69.

No details about his death were provided.

Redbone's career got a boost in the early 1970s when Bob Dylan met him at the Mariposa Folk Festival in Ontario, Canada, and praised his performance. Dylan said that if he ever started a label, he would have signed Redbone.

"Leon interests me," Dylan said in an interview with

Rolling Stone in 1974. "I've heard he's anywhere



This March 28, 1998 file photo shows Leon Redbone performing at the eighth annual Redwood Coast Dixieland Jazz Festival in Eureka, Calif.

Associated Press

from 25 to 60, I've been (a foot and a half from him) and I can't tell, but you gotta see him. He does old Jimmie Rodgers, then turns around and does a Robert Johnson."

Dylan wasn't the only one who didn't know Redbone's real age since the performer never directly answered questions about his origin or age. Redbone's publicist confirmed he was born in Cyprus on Aug. 26, 1949, but the Thursday statement announcing his death explained that "Leon Redbone crossed the delta for that beautiful shore at the age of 127. He departed our world with his guitar, his trusty companion Rover, and a simple tip of his hat."

"I don't do anything mysterious on purpose. I'm less than forthcoming, but that doesn't necessarily mean I'm mysterious. It just means I'm not inclined to go there," Redbone was quoted saying in the press release that announced his death.

Redbone retired from performing in 2015 because his health had "been a matter of concern for some time," a spokesman for the singer said at the time, and it was "too challenging for him to continue the full range of professional activities." He released his debut album, "On the Track," in 1975, and dropped 16 albums throughout his career.

Most often dressed in a

white suit with a string tie, wearing glasses and a panama hat, Redbone performed twice on "Saturday Night Live" in its first season (1975-1976) and was a frequent guest on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

He voiced Leon the Snowman in the 2003 Christmas comedy "Elf," starring Will Ferrell, and sang "Baby, It's Cold Outside," a duet with Zooey Deschanel, for the film.

Redbone also sang the theme song for the TV series "Mr. Belvedere" and "Harry and the Hendersons."

A 16-minute documentary about his life aptly titled "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone" was released last year. □



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## Tony Awards host James Corden hopes audience will find 'joy'

By JOHN CARUCCI  
MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — TV talk show host James Corden steps back into the role of Tony Award host Sunday, not planning anything too political and not worried about any online snark.

"I hope people will find joy in it," said the host of CBS' "The Late Late Show With James Corden" and a Tony winner in his own right. "We just want to make a show that is an absolute joyous celebration of a group of people that I think should be celebrated at the minimum once a year on television."

Corden spoke in the midst of his rehearsal preparation that culminates in a three-hour live show at Radio City Music Hall. He has hosted the telecast before — in 2016 when "Hamilton" was that season's juggernaut — as well as the Grammys in 2018, but it's still a daunting task.



This Jan. 28, 2018, file photo shows James Corden hosting the 60th annual Grammy Awards at Madison Square Garden in New York.

"It's terrifying. Because there's only one chance to do it. It's completely live," he said. "You're trying to do something new that you only have four days to rehearse."

Part of the unpredictability stems from these hyper-partisan times. Live award shows have lately had a political edge — last year's Tony show saw Robert De Niro dropping an F-bomb

about President Donald Trump. Corden doesn't plan to fan the flames.

Corden recalled his heavy-hearted role three years ago when he hosted the Tonys, which unspooled hours after a gunman killed 49 people at a gay Florida nightclub. That prompted a Broadway tribute to the victims at the top of the show and a smattering of references to tolerance

throughout it. Corden was credited with handling the situation with poignancy and positivity.

He recalled he had gotten a good sleep the morning of the show and was initially oblivious about the details of the Pulse shooting until rehearsal, when the scale of the horror became clearer and it was being described as America's most deadly mass shooting.

"The saddest thing about all of it — the absolute saddest thing about all of it — is that today it isn't America's biggest mass shooting anymore," Corden said.

That day, Corden and executive producer Ben Winston wrestled with how to handle the shooting while also celebrating Broadway. They agreed the telecast had to explicitly honor the dead and extend Broadway's message of inclusion. "The theatrical community is one that welcomes everyone. They have prejudice for no one — gender,

race, sexuality, everything. They say, 'Come and be part of this, merry band,'" recalled Corden. "That's what we have to say."

Sunday's telecast will be Corden's fourth Tony moment. He attended the show as an actor in 2006 when his play "The History Boys" was nominated. He then won a Tony in 2012 in "One Man, Two Guvnors." Then came the 2016 hosting gig.

The late night host, who has made his "Carpool Karaoke" segments huge viral hits, said he's braced for the inevitable criticism awards hosts usually face online.

"I think it's really easy to criticize, and it's really hard to have an idea. I remember thinking that when 'The Game of Thrones' finale happened, and people were up in arms," he said. "And you just want to go, 'Well, you should go and write something better than.'" □



# New York's High Line park marks 10 years of transformation

By **KAREN MATTHEWS**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — When the High Line park opened in New York City, then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg predicted the transformation of the abandoned, elevated freight line into an artsy public promenade would be “an extraordinary gift to our city’s future.”

A decade later, there’s no question the High Line has been a resounding success as an engine for tourism and neighborhood revitalization.

An estimated 8 million annual visitors now visit the park, which threads 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) through a transformed part of Manhattan. Once a land of industrial buildings, parking lots and auto repair businesses, the neighborhood is now anchored at one end by the dazzling new home of the Whitney Museum of American Art and at the other by Hudson Yards, a \$25 billion development of skyscrapers, shops and a performing arts center.

But there’s handwringing about whether the High Line is a victim of its own success.

In the beginning, the park was remarkable for its ability to lift visitors above the streetscape to a perch with unique vistas over mostly low-rise rooftops. It was a park in the sky. Now, it’s nestled in a canyon of tall, luxury condominium buildings that have sprouted along its sides. Still cool, but different, and often choked with out-of-town visitors.

And some critics blame the High Line for the neighborhood’s hyper-gentrification. “When I first used to



In this July 11, 2003 file photo, grass and weeds cover the High Line, a 1.5-mile-long elevated steel railroad spur built 70 years ago to carry freight trains into the west side of Manhattan.

go up there I was pretty wowed by it,” said Alex Reichl, a Queens College political science professor who has written about the High Line for the journal *Urban Geography*. “But it started to feel to me more and more that it was such an exclusive space and so lacking in the diversity that New York is known for. To me, it’s always been kind of a missed opportunity.”

Robert Hammond, who co-founded the High Line with Joshua David and serves as the executive director of the nonprofit that manages the park in partnership with the city, said it deserves neither all the credit nor all the blame for the ultra-luxury buildings now blocking some of its views.

“The High Line becomes a lightning rod for love and hate,” he said. “This neighborhood was going to change. It was a manufacturing neighborhood. It was going to be rezoned.”

The net effect of the park,

he said, has been incredibly positive.

Copied around the world — and itself inspired by the Promenade Plantée in Paris — the High Line marked its 10th anniversary by opening its final piece last week. The short section, called the Spur, straddles the intersection of 10th Avenue and West 30th Street, and connects the High Line to Hudson Yards.

It includes a dedicated art space called the Plinth, whose inaugural commission, a 16-foot-tall (5-meter-tall) bust of a black female figure by artist Simone Leigh, seems to rebuke the surrounding glass towers. The sculpture, *Brick House*, is “a very powerful female presence in a very masculine, vertical landscape,” said Cecilia Alemani, the High Line’s chief art curator.

The High Line was originally built in the 1930s to raise freight trains above street level. Efforts to preserve the

line started in the 1980s after the last trains delivered their loads, but the preservation movement wasn’t universally embraced. Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani thought the tracks were an eyesore and wanted them torn down.

Back then, the blocks surrounding the High Line in Manhattan’s West Chelsea neighborhood were largely undeveloped and considered dangerous by some.

Anthony Annaruma remembers driving there in the mid-1980s to go to a nightclub.

“The red light district that this was?” Annaruma said. “The prostitution? You would come up 11th Avenue, 10th Avenue, it would take you one hour to get to that light because they were all jumping in your car: ‘Baby come here.’”

Annaruma is now working at the site of a new condo tower called the Jardim going up west of the High Line. Julie Bauer, who bought an

apartment a block east of the High Line shortly before it opened, said the area has changed dramatically.

“Tenth Avenue was always parking lots because everyone would come over from Jersey or wherever, come through the tunnel, park their car and then go do their business,” she said. “And then the parking lots and garages all suddenly started getting converted to apartment buildings and galleries and things like that.” A 2016 study by the real estate website StreetEasy found that resale values for apartments adjacent to the High Line rose 10% faster than for comparable apartments a few blocks away.

Buildings abutting the High Line that have gone up since then or are under construction include Zaha Hadid’s 520 W. 28th St., where an 11-room penthouse is listed at \$58.5 million, and Thomas Heatherwick’s barrel-windowed 515 W. 18th St., opening next year. The Hadid building is occupying land that was once a scrapyard. The Heatherwick lot once was home to the Roxy nightclub. A recent visit to the High Line found tourists enjoying the lush greenery and bird’s-eye views.

The High Line’s success has inspired dozens of efforts to turn abandoned pieces of infrastructure into parks, including about a dozen in the United States and Canada that are part of the High Line Network, set up by Hammond in part to help other projects navigate gentrification issues.

Kevin Dow, the executive director of Friends of the Rail Park in Philadelphia, said leaders of the Rail Park — whose first section opened last year — hope to create opportunities for development without alienating longtime residents or forcing them out.

“What we want to be able to do is engage deeply with our current community in a way that we retain that cultural fabric while adapting to the changing demographics that are coming in,” Dow said. □



In this May 29, 2019 photo, a bronze bust of a Black woman entitled “Brick House,” by Chicago artist Simone Leigh, is seen in the High Line park section called “The Spur,” in New York.

**Associated Press**



In this March 5, 2019 photo, structures both modern and old flank visitors walking on the High Line park in New York.

**Associated Press**





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